

'Chernenko to visit Paris next year'

PARIS (R) — Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko will pay an official visit to France next year, French President Francois Mitterrand announced Sunday. Mr. Mitterrand announced the visit in an interview with Syrian television ahead of his official trip to Damascus Sunday. He did not give dates for Mr. Chernenko's trip. The text of the interview was released by the presidential Elysee Palace. "Mr. Chernenko will visit us next year in Paris, I think, events permitting. It is a wish expressed on both sides that this meeting help improve our relations," Mr. Mitterrand said. "The Soviet Union and France cannot be allies, but we can be friends." Franco-Soviet relations have been tense since Mr. Mitterrand, who supported the deployment of NATO missiles in Western Europe, came to power in May 1981. They have recently improved after a visit by the French president to the Soviet Union last June.

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Israelis to try ex-mayor of Kalkilya

TEL AVIV (AP) — A deposed Palestinian mayor will face trial for violating order by the Israeli occupation authorities barring him from travelling from his West Bank home without authorisation, military sources said Sunday. Haj Amin Ibrahim Al Nasser, former mayor of Kalkilya, is to be tried next month for travelling 30 kilometres from his home to Nablus in October 1983 without the permission of the Israeli military governor, the sources said, speaking on condition they were not identified. In July 1983, the Israeli authorities in the West Bank had ordered Mr. Nasser not to leave Kalkilya for six months without their permission. The Israelis dismissed Mr. Nasser from his elected post as mayor in 1983 after accusing him of inciting street protests against Israel in the occupied West Bank. Meanwhile, in the West Bank City of Hebron, an unidentified attacker threw a firebomb at an Israeli bus late Saturday night, the Israeli military command said. The bomb exploded without hurting anyone, the command said.

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Cabinet appoints 4 new mayors

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet held an ordinary session Sunday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat and took a number of decisions among which was the appointment of four new mayors. According to the decision, Abdullah Al Ja'afreh was appointed mayor of Karak, Adolf Swais was named mayor of Fuhes, Mustafa Khalaf Abu Aqula was appointed mayor of Al Ruweish in Mafrqa District and Mohammad Mohyiddin Kreishan was named mayor of Ma'an.

PNC forms 8 committees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Palestine National Council (PNC) has decided to form eight committees to discuss various issues. These are: the Political Committee, the Financial Committee, the Occupied Territories Committee, the People's Organisations Committee, the Military Committee, the Information and Culture Committee, the Social Affairs and Higher Education Committee, and the Committee for Palestinian Affairs in Lebanon.

Ministry confirms bomb found at ACOR

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Interior Ministry has confirmed reports that a small bomb was found and defused at the garden of the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman. The ministry did not say when the bomb was found, but the Associated Press quoted ACOR sources as saying Saturday that it was found and defused earlier in the day.

Yamani warns West of oil crisis

LONDON (AP) — Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani has warned that there could be "a real interruption" in oil supplies to the West before the end of the year, the Sunday Times reported. The paper quoted Sheikh Yamani as saying in an interview in the Saudi capital of Riyadh that next month's demand for oil from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will far outstrip supplies, leading to shortages. "There could be a real panic on the markets. The situation is very alarming and very risky," he was quoted as saying.

Egyptian students stage sit-in

CAIRO (R) — Students staged a sit-in at Al Azhar University Sunday to protest at the death last week of a student in an accident involving a police truck and to demand the implementation of Islamic law. Eyewitnesses said six arrests were made when some 200 students took to the streets shouting Islamic slogans and carrying placards voicing grievances. But about 2,000 others stayed on the campus and said they would not leave until Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali came to hear their complaints.

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Jordan hopes King's call will encourage peace

AMMAN (R) — Jordan hopes that King Hussein's speech to the Palestine National Council (PNC) on Thursday will lead to an atmosphere in which decisions by parties in the Middle East conflict can be reconsidered, Information Minister Laila Sharaf said Sunday.

"We hope the King's speech will create an atmosphere of reconsidering decisions," she told journalists covering the council session.

The minister said Jordan sees King Hussein's proposal as a "framework for cooperation" and is not expecting any declaration from the PNC on it. She said the proposal was a "package deal" and parties to the conflict should accept it as an inseparable whole. At the opening session of the PNC, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, on Thursday King Hussein called for a joint Palestinian-Jordanian approach through an international peace conference.



Laila Sharaf based on United Nations Resolution 242.

The PLO accepts the principle of an international conference but has reaffirmed its rejection of the resolution, which treats the Palestinian question as one of refugees.

Two PNC members criticised Jordan's proposals from the floor Sunday, saying the time was not right for peace moves based on Resolution 242.

The PLO leadership has indicated it will not give any formal response to the King's suggestion at the PNC, and Mrs. Sharaf said Jordan was not expecting any immediate decision.

Jordan was not demanding that the PLO make any formal declaration, she said. "We do not need any declaration. We hope a new dynamic will be created," she added.

She said the resolution was only a starting point and the King's proposed framework included several developments such as a call for an international conference of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, and recognition of the PLO as the Palestinians' sole representative.

Dajani calls on PNC to seek ways for reunification

By Laila K. Andoni and Salameh B. Ne'matt Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Major political issues facing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the split within its ranks were the focus of debate and speeches Sunday at meetings of the Palestine National Council (PNC), which opened its 17th session in Amman Thursday.

The most moving and comprehensive speech was made by PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidki Dajani who charged that the PLO leadership "could have exerted more efforts to reunify Palestinian ranks" before convening the PNC session.

Mr. Dajani, who has adopted a neutral stand over the inter-Palestinian split, called on the PNC "to outline the basis for a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue in order to heal the rift within the PLO."

"I stand here in front of you with mixed feelings," he told the council. "I am happy to see my brothers, who have shared the long struggle with me," he said, "but, at the same time, I feel sad because there are many of our brothers who are absent from this meeting."

Mr. Dajani made a long analysis of the current situation in the Palestinian arena and concluded that there is no way out of the Palestinian debate but through "the reunification of Palestinian ranks and normalisation of relations with all front-line Arab countries on the basis of a confrontation strategy."

Mr. Dajani, who is considered "very moderate" in Palestinian ranks, said the prevailing facts in the Arab and international arena exclude the possibility of achieving a peaceful solution for the Palestinian problem.

"We have so far used all forms of political and armed struggle," he said. "But our history shows us that it is the escalation of armed resistance that paves the way for

(Continued on page 3)

PNC should stick to 16th session decisions, three factions 'warn' Fateh

By Laila K. Andoni Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three key independent Palestinian factions, grouped in "democratic alliance" Sunday approached the Fateh leadership with an implied warning: Either the 17th PNC sticks to the decisions of the 16th PNC or else there will be a final split in the PLO. The three factions are the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Palestinian Communist Party.

Four policy guidelines from the 16th session, held in Algiers in February last year, were targeted for "no change" by the alliance.

according to PLO sources. These were, relations with Syria, relations with Egypt, organisational changes, and the response to Jordan's call for a joint initiative with PLO, the sources said.

The sources quoted "democratic alliance" representatives as telling Fateh leaders that they risked a "final divorce" with the Damascus-based groups if the PNC currently meeting in Amman decided to restore relations with Egypt and severed all relations with Syria. The acceptance by the PNC of the King's call for a joint initiative, on the basis of U.N. Resolution 242 coupled with full PLO participation in an international peace conference on the Middle East, would also lead

to a deep split with Fateh, according to the "democratic alliance" conditions. So would "unsatisfactory" organisational changes that would weaken the independent representation in the PLO, the sources said.

Fateh is understood not to be too perturbed by the implicit warning. The "democratic alliance" can be assured that Fateh will not depart from the 16th PNC's policy guidelines, a senior Fateh official told the Jordan Times Sunday. "We care for the unity of the PLO and for the dialogue with the 'democratic alliance' as much as they do. But we also have our conditions," the official added, declining to elaborate.

(Continued on page 3)

Militia clashes break out in Beirut as army is poised for deployment

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Heavy artillery fire broke out in the mountains southeast of Beirut Sunday only hours before a new Syrian-backed security plan for the capital was due to come into effect.

The sound of gunfire from the mountains 15 kilometres south of Beirut echoed through the capital just after Beirut Radio broadcast an army statement saying troops had been ordered to take "necessary and strict measures" from Sunday night to remove militia barricades in the capital.

Right-wing Falange radio accused mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia of using "all types of weapons" to shell army positions at the strategic Souq Al Gharb village overlooking the presidential palace.

PSP radio said several areas near Souq Al Gharb came under artillery and mortar fire.

The renewed clashes came only a day after Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam held talks with Lebanese leaders to ensure success of a plan to extend army

control in Beirut and south to Israeli occupation lines.

The army, citing "technical reasons," Saturday delayed until midnight Sunday the deployment of three army brigades in Beirut to complete a July peace plan for the capital.

An army takeover of all militia positions in Beirut would prepare the ground for army deployment along the Beirut-Sidon road, putting troops in place to prevent factional fighting after an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon.

Three army brigades — the 6th, 5th and 3rd brigades — would take up the mission, government sources said. On Sunday morning, army troops had been thinned out in Beirut in an apparent effort to regroup the force for its overnight deployment.

The plan was drafted by the government and endorsed by leaders of the various warring factions.

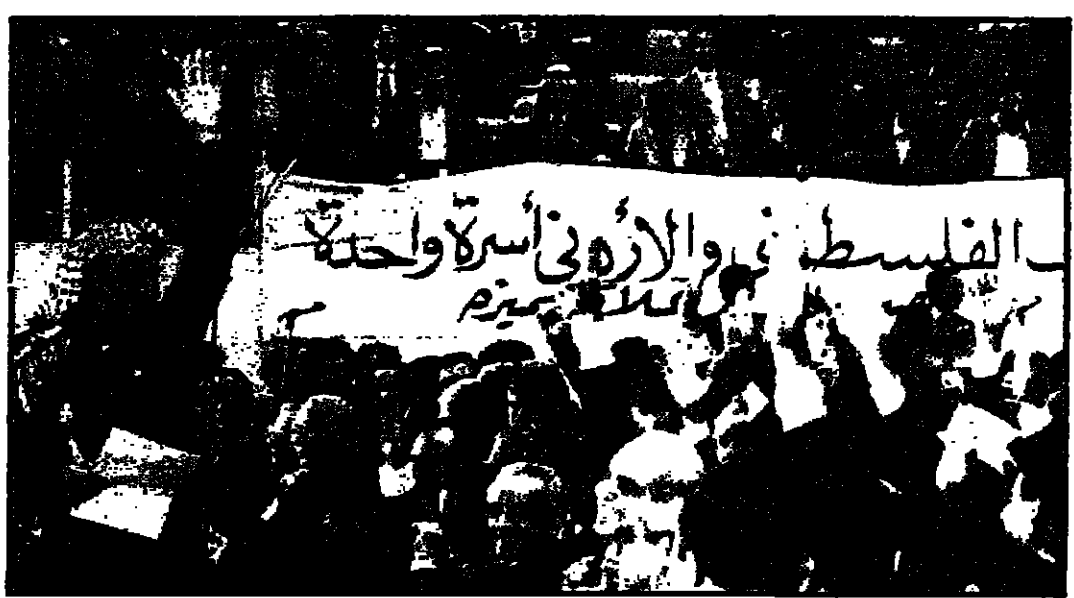
A similar army deployment along the coastal road to southern and northern Lebanon was expected to be carried out next Sunday. Disengagement of troops around Souq Al Gharb and the reopening of the Beirut-Damascus highway was to follow a week after.

A series of past security plans intended to curb the reign of rival militias in Beirut have proved hollow, and armed men have continued to reappear at random on the streets.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami told visitors at his hometown of Tripoli in northern Lebanon Sunday that the security plan was a "starting point that proves the will of love and good."

The French-language daily newspaper L'Orient le Jour Sunday quoted a government source as saying the new Beirut security plan was a sort of "gentleman's agreement" under which militia had agreed to stay off the street as long as political consensus continued.

Successful army deployment could herald Lebanese peace, page 4



HANDS IN UNITY: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (left) raises his hand along with members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in a debate during the sessions of the council in Amman

Sunday. The banner in the background says "Jordanians and Palestinians are one." (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Syrian launches seething attack on Damascus

By Alan Philips Reuter

AMMAN — The Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, Sunday heard its most violent attack to date on Syria, sponsor of a boycott against Israel, as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat spoke.

"Syrian support is like a poisoned dagger in the back of Palestine," said Jasssem Alwan, a former Syrian army officer who is now an exiled opponent of President Hafez Al Assad, in an address to the council.

Mr. Alwan, one of several guest speakers, said thousands of Communist, leftist and Muslim activists were being tortured in Syrian jails, and he accused the Syrian security forces of massacring opponents.

The presence of an exiled opposition figure from an Arab country is a rare occurrence in the PNC, and Palestinian sources said it demonstrated the depth of feeling against Syria, backer of anti-Arafat rebels who forced him to leave Lebanon last year.

Syria has campaigned against the holding of the PNC, demanding that Mr. Arafat be dismissed from the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) first.

Mr. Alwan's comments contrasted sharply with the conciliatory note struck towards Syria in public by Mr. Arafat and the head of the PLO's Political Department, Farouk Kaddoumi.

Mr. Kaddoumi blamed Syria for the 18-month-old rebellion by PLO dissidents, and said it was a bid to make the PLO into a Syrian puppet. But he said the PLO needed good ties with Damascus and reaffirmed its readiness for dialogue.

Procedural wrangling and several messages of support held up the promised floor debate on Mr. Kaddoumi's speech during the day. The debate in the evening centred on relations with Syria and Egypt (see story above).

PNC sources revealed that members of the Egyptian delegation, numbering some 240 including journalists, were "surprised" at Mr. Kaddoumi's comments on PLO relations with the Egyptian opposition.

Though Mr. Arafat, in a deeply contested move, met President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo last December, Mr. Kaddoumi said: "We have deepened our relations with the Egyptian national movement (opposition)."

A member of the Central Committee of Mr. Arafat's dominant Fateh commando group, Hani Al Hassan, meanwhile gave a clear indication that the current session would avoid pronouncing on key issues.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Hassan said: "The current PNC session will concentrate on putting the Palestinian house in order as a step towards taking political decisions of destiny. Therefore, the PNC will first of all discuss organisational issues." (Text of interview on page 3).

King calls for urgent Arab, Islamic efforts to help Iraqi PoWs

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday called on heads of Arab and Islamic states to stop Iran from committing "the ugliest crimes" against Iraqi prisoners of war (PoWs), the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

"In the name of religion and humanity, I urge you to do whatever you can, personally or collectively, to prevent Iran from perpetrating the ugliest crimes against Muslim brother prisoners," the King said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, Switzerland, last week urged the world community to put pressure on Iran because of what it termed as a "grave threat which hangs over some 50,000 Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran."

The committee has accused Iran of "repeated and grave violations" of international laws aimed at the protection of prisoners.

Iran reacted sharply Saturday to the charge and said the Red Cross would not be allowed to operate further in Iran unless it changed its policies.

Earlier the Red Cross had reported the killing of six Iraqi prisoners and the wounding of some 35 others in the Gorgan camp in Iran last October. The Red Cross has also said the killings were not

believed to be an isolated incident. The King sent similar messages to the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

On Saturday, Red Cross President Alexandre Hay accused Iran of "repeated and grave violations" of international humanitarian laws and said that the 161 signatories of the Geneva Conventions "hold in their hands the fate" of the Iraqi prisoners whom the Red Cross "alone is unable to save."

Mr. Hay, who addressed a gathering of ambassadors from signatory nations, said the committee had established that last month's killing of Iraqi prisoners in Gorgan, which had been witnessed by Swiss delegates of the Red Cross, was "unfortunately not the only incident."

The Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) also condemned Saturday the practices of Iranian authorities against Iraqi prisoners of war.

JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura also called on the Red Cross to form an international fact-finding committee in accordance with the First Protocol of the Geneva Convention and the Third Agreement covering treatment of prisoners of war.

Iraq asks Red Cross to expel Iran, page 2

Iraq warns Iranians of 'annihilation'

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq warned Iran Sunday it would fight a "war of annihilation" if the Iranians launch any fresh attacks on the Gulf war front.

A military spokesman declared: "We challenge you... to come to the battlefield with what remains of your troops... and we will fight an annihilative war that will leave none of them alive."

His statement, broadcast by Baghdad Radio, came amidst reports of fresh Iranian preparations for a new offensive in the warfront central sector.

A senior Iranian official said Saturday that Tehran planned to end the war by "military means in the not too distant future" and the Iraqi spokesman's statement was apparently issued in response to this.

The Iraqi spokesman said Iraqi armed forces "are fully prepared to crush with their feet, before (using) their weapons."

"The battlefield will be filled once again with the corpses of the Iranians... the Iraqi armed forces possess destructive weapons to defend the security of Iraq and the pride of its people."

An Iraqi war communique Sunday said Iraqi gunners shelled Iranian positions across the 1,180-kilometre-long eastern border killing one soldier and destroying six infantry bunkers.

An unspecified number of "civilian Iranian citizens fleeing the oppression of the Iranian regime sought refuge with our forward positions in the northern sector of the front and were safely evacuated to rear lines," the communique said.

Hussein to visit Cairo 'next week'

CAIRO (R) — King Hussein is expected to visit Egypt next week for talks with President Hosni Mubarak, Foreign Ministry sources said Sunday.

They said an invitation to the King was conveyed by Mr. Mubarak's personal envoy, former Information Minister Mansour Hassan who flew to Amman last Wednesday.

Mr. Mubarak visited Jordan last month after Amman resumed diplomatic ties with Cairo, severed over Egypt's 1979 separate peace treaty with Israel.

Cairo's daily newspaper Al Gomhouriya said Sunday King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak discussed the current session in Amman of the Palestine National Council in a telephone conversation Saturday. It gave no details.

Mr. Mubarak was later quoted as saying he welcomed King Hussein's call for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian approach towards Middle East peace moves, which he made at the opening session of the council on Thursday.

Mohammad Al Hashemi, president of Cairo's Ain Shams University, told reporters Mr. Mubarak made the comment at a meeting with the university's board members.

Arafat plans Arab tour after PNC

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Sunday he plans to make a tour of Arab countries immediately after the current meetings of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Arafat said he will be accompanied in tour by some key members of the PNC as well as the PLO Executive Committee. He said the tour was primarily aimed at briefing Arab leaders on the outcome of the PNC meetings in Amman.

Mr. Arafat also told Petra that His Majesty King Hussein's inaugural speech at the opening session of the PNC on Thursday and the ideas contained in it will be discussed by the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee.

Hijackers set deadline to blow up Somali plane

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Three heavily-armed hijackers threatened to blow up a commandeered Somali airliner with more than 100 people aboard at midnight Sunday if Mogadishu failed to free seven youths they said were facing execution Monday.

Somalia denied that anyone was to be executed and rejected the hijackers' demands out of hand.

The claim that seven youths were to die Monday was "baseless" and without foundation, and a further demand for the release of 13 alleged prisoners in Somalia would mean giving in to blackmail and encouraging international terrorism, a foreign ministry spokesman in Mogadishu said.

"These demands are therefore totally rejected by the Somali government," he added.

A spokesman for the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry, which is handling negotiations, said the hijackers had extended their deadline from Sunday noon until midnight but would wait no longer.

"They will blow up the plane

and passengers if their demands are not met by the new deadline," the spokesman told reporters.

The Somali Boeing 707 was carrying 130 people on a flight from Mogadishu to Jeddah via the Red Sea port of Berbera when it was taken over Saturday. Ethiopia says the hijackers are Somali army officers.

The hijackers first tried to land in South Yemen before heading for Addis Ababa's Bole international airport.

Nineteen passengers and three crew members, including a pilot who was injured during a mid-air shooting, have been allowed to leave the aircraft.

The passengers still on board include two Italians, three Yemenis, an Egyptian diplomat, an American and a United Nations staff member whose nationality was not given.

The Somali Foreign Ministry said Mogadishu held "the Ethiopian government fully responsible for the speedy release and the safe return to Somalia of the aircraft and its passengers."

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Arabs showing more interest in joint economic action, CAEU says

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Mahdi Al Obeidi said here Sunday that despite political differences among Arab states they are showing more and more interest in joint Arab economic action.

He said he hoped that the coming CAEU meeting in the first week of December will witness this trend being materialised into action.

The Arab countries, he said, will convene here at ministers of economy and finance and trade level to discuss economic issues of concern to the Arab World.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Obeidi said that all member states

in the council will take part in the coming meeting, "and this calls for optimism and raises hopes for a joint Arab economic action to benefit all Arab states."

According to Mr. Obeidi, all technical committees emanating from the CAEU have held meetings during the current year, and will submit to the ministers' conference reports about the economic situation in the Arab World.

"The fact that all member states have shown keenness in participating in the coming 42nd meeting manifests their desire to benefit from a joint Arab economic action, and to devote time for discussing ways to help Arab states rely on themselves in the face of current world economic crises," Mr. Obeidi said.

The CAEU secretary general called on all Arab states to join the council's activities and help establish Arab economic integration. Mr. Obeidi called for neutralising economic action from inter Arab political differences because he said "economy is lasting while political differences are a passing occurrence."

Mr. Obeidi said that among the

most important issues on the agenda of the CAEU's 42nd meeting is a report by himself on the world economic situation and its repercussions on Arab economies and a plan for bolstering economic cooperation among Arab states.

The council will also discuss recommendations submitted by special committees about the implementation of previous council resolutions and will review recommendations of the council's technical committees which prepared papers on Arab agricultural and industrial integration and on cooperation in trade, customs, statistics and other fields.

The council will also debate and endorse its 1983 budget.

Iraq asks Red Cross to expel Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi newspapers Sunday demanded Iran's expulsion from the International Red Cross as punishment for maltreatment of Iraqi prisoners-of-war (PoWs).

Tehran's expulsion is the minimum punishment to expose its crime," the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) last week said Iran was violating the Geneva Convention on treatment of PoWs and said it was putting at risk the "physical and mental survival" of thousands of Iraqi prisoners.

The ICRC, whose officials have suspended all activity in Iran since a riot at a PoW camp there last month in which at least five prisoners died, appealed to all signatories to the convention to pressure Iran to respect it.

In Tehran, Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said Saturday the ICRC would have to change its policy before it would be allowed to resume its activities in Iran.

Iran Sunday accused the Red Cross of espionage and of violating its traditional neutrality and published documents which it said supported the accusations.

Kamal Kharazi, head of Iran's War Information Bureau, also confirmed for the first time that six

Iraqi prisoners of war (PoWs) died in a clash at a PoW camp at Gorgan in northern Iran last month. Iran had previously spoken of five dead.

Mr. Kharazi told a press conference three Iraqis opposed to the Ba'athist government in Iraq were murdered by other prisoners and three were shot by guards after the prisoners tried to break out of the camp.

Mr. Kharazi reiterated Iran's argument that the camp clash was provoked by ICRC delegates and said it started when pro-Ba'athist prisoners handed over a list of prisoners who opposed the Baghdad regime.

Mr. Kharazi said International Red Cross delegates had spoken against Iran to prisoners of war in violation of their neutrality. He also accused the organisation of failing in its duty by not inquiring into the fate of 20,000 Iranians he said were missing in Iraq.

Mr. Kharazi said the ICRC had involved itself in a political game and had shown itself to have taken sides against Iran.

The ICRC's recent statements against Iran were timed to show Iraq as humanitarian while tarnishing Iran's image at a time when Iraq was trying to re-establish relations with the United States, he added.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei

Saturday accused the ICRC of being "a captive of American policies."

Meanwhile the spokesman for Tehran's inner war cabinet said Saturday Iran had decided to end its war with Iraq by military means and would do so "in the not too distant future."

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told volunteer fighters: "We have made our decision," Tehran Radio reported.

"We must finish off the war once and for all and bring peace to the region and our country with an appropriate move at a not too distant future," Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani was quoted as saying.

Mr. Rafsanjani, who represents Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on the Supreme Defence Council, spoke at a seminar in Tehran of "Basseei" Volunteer Force commanders.

All peace initiatives have so far failed over Iran's first demand that Iraqi government should be ousted.

Mr. Rafsanjani, who is also Majlis (parliament) Speaker, said Iran had prepared itself in every respect to finish off the war.

"We have summed up the experiences of previous operations, studied points of strength and weakness, identified vulnerable Iraqi points along our border," the radio quoted him as saying.

Jordan presents paper at physicians conference

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan's delegation to a three-day Arab Physicians Union (APU) conference here presented a working paper outlining the deteriorating health conditions among the Arab inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories.

The paper presented by Dr. Hassan Khreis, president of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) spoke of Israel's arbitrary measures against Arab doctors and health institutions which caused this deterioration in health conditions.

The paper called on Arab medical unions to help support a special fund for supporting the steadfastness of the Arab doctors under Israeli rule to enable them carry out their humanitarian mission.

Dr. Khreis heads a delegation of three doctors one of whom is Dr. Adnan Kamal, from the West Bank, along with several Jordanian physicians who plan to submit research papers to the conference that opened Saturday.

Jordanian representative returns from AAU seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Assistant Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) Dr. Safwan Al Tal returned to Amman Saturday after taking part in a seminar on Arab universities information department roles held in Abu Dhabi.

The seminar called on Arab states to encourage the production of information material which highlights Arab and Islamic heritage and enhances educational and social values and principles. Dr. Tal said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Former Austrian leader says Arabs should respond to peace movement

BEIRUT (R) — Former Austrian government leader Bruno Kreisky was quoted Sunday as saying Arabs should establish a dialogue with the Israeli "Peace Now" Movement and Israeli leaders.

Beirut's Monday Morning magazine quoted Dr. Kreisky, Austrian chancellor from 1970 to 1983, as saying it was necessary for Arabs "to show some response, a political response, to all the efforts of the Peace Now Movement and their friends."

"The largest demonstration ever held against the war in Lebanon took place in Israel," Dr.

Kreisky told the English-language weekly in an interview. "If no response is shown (to the peace movement), I think the movement will be in dire straits in Israel," he added.

Dr. Kreisky, the first West European government leader to have received Palestinian chief Yasser Arafat, said he was also "interested in establishing a dialogue between the (Israeli) people and opposition members of parliament in Israel, and the Palestinians and Arabs."

He said the United States should pursue the 1982 Reagan peace

initiative which called for Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan.

Dr. Kreisky said the United States must be ready to follow up the plan because "it is a very peculiar attitude on the part of Israel to refuse the American president's plan when Israel is living only on (the assistance) the Americans have provided."

"Only if the Americans are ready to envisage a follow-up to the Reagan plan will Israel be influenced," he said.



KING RECEIVES IRAQI ENVOY: His Majesty King Hussein received at Al Nadwa Palace Sunday afternoon Mr. Na'im Haddad (second from left) head of the Iraqi delegation to the Palestine National Council meeting in Amman. The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Interior Minister Suleiman Arar and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Amman (Petra photo)

Libya says Egypt planning aggression

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Abdul Salam Al Tureiki has told the Arab League that Egyptian troops are on maximum alert in preparation for aggression against Libya, the official Libyan News Agency JANA reported Sunday.

The agency, received in Beirut, quoted Mr. Tureiki as saying in a message to Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, that Egyptian forces on the Libyan border had been put on maximum alert.

He said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held an emergency meeting Saturday with his military command and Defence Ministry to prepare for aggression, JANA reported.

Egyptian Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi said last weekend Egyptian Security Forces had been ordered on alert for any possible reprisals after Cairo said it had tricked Libya into announcing it had knowledge of a plot to kill a prominent exiled Libyan opposition leader in Cairo.

JANA said Mr. Tureiki stressed in his message Libya's determination to defend itself and asked the Arab League secretary-general to brief Arab countries on the matter.

In Cairo, a meeting between Mr. Mubarak and his defence chiefs lasting three-and-a-half-hours was reported in Sunday's semi-official press but nothing could be gleaned from defence sources on what was discussed.

Interior Minister Rushdi, in speaking of an alert last week, appeared to be referring to internal security forces.

Reporters last week asked Mr. Mubarak himself if troops were on a higher state of alert along the western desert frontier with Libya, where the army has its strongest dispositions.

The question was put on Nov. 18, the day after Egypt made public details of how it said it duped Libya into announcing the "execution" of a Cairo-based political opponent of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi who was later produced alive.

Mr. Mubarak said there was no need to raise the state of alert on the borders. "I hope and pray that nothing will take place on our borders," he said, adding Egypt planned no attack but would react "vehemently" if its territory were violated.

Meanwhile a Briton implicated in an alleged Libyan plot to kill an opponent of Col. Qadhafi pro-

bably betrayed the operation to Egyptian security, a London newspaper said Sunday.

The weekly Observer said unnamed "western intelligence sources" maintain that Godfrey Shiner either voluntarily tipped off Egyptian authorities before the four-man "hit squad" arrived in Cairo, or was ensnared at an early stage by the Egyptians.

Mr. Shiner, 47, and fellow Londoner William Gill, 48, were arrested Nov. 17 along with two Maltese men after Egyptian security allegedly foiled a plot to kill former Libyan Prime Minister Abdel-Hamid Bakoush.

Mr. Shiner had business dealings with Col. Qadhafi's regime for five years and represented about 10 British and American oil equipment companies in Libya, the paper said.

Egypt claimed Mr. Shiner was paid \$10,000, and was promised another \$40,000 if the assassination plot was successful. But a friend of Mr. Shiner's, who lives in Malta, told the paper that Mr. Shiner had little financial motive to join the alleged scheme.

"The amount of money mentioned is peanuts to Godfrey," the unnamed friend was quoted as saying.

Israeli cabinet briefed on impact of defence cut

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's cabinet was secretly briefed by the country's generals Sunday about the possible impact of a proposed \$150 million cut in the defence budget and one minister said later the session should cause "many heartfelt concerns."

Defence officials have said the cut would mean fewer training exercises for soldiers, reduced stockpiles and less research for developing new weapons.

The \$150 million reduction follows a \$300 million cut approved by the government when it took office in September.

The cabinet has pledged to slash spending as part of an austerity programme to reduce the country's 800 per cent annual inflation.

The \$4 billion defence budget makes up almost half of all government spending after debt repayment. Treasury officials view defence cuts as crucial to any economic recovery programme.

The five-hour cabinet briefing took place in "the bunker," as the Tel Aviv military headquarters is known.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the session, Social Welfare Minister Moshe Katzav said: "It was a very tough discussion and the briefing should raise many heartfelt concerns."

Mr. Katzav said it was too early to determine the final scope of the budget reduction.

"We've already cut a lot of the fat off the defence budget. Now we face the more difficult task of figuring out how to cut in such areas as training with minimum harm."

Israeli newspapers have reported the army plans to lay off about 2,600 career officers as part of the defence cuts.

The mass-circulation Yedioth Ahronoth said defence cuts could jeopardise the Lavi fighter plane project.

Some \$800 million has already been invested in the project, aimed at developing an Israeli-made fighter for the air force in the 1990s.

N. Yemen reshuffles cabinet

SANAA (R) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has reshuffled his cabinet, appointing former Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani as deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Radio Sanaa reported Saturday night.

The radio gave no reason for the change. Mr. Iryani was prime minister from 1980 to 1983, when he was appointed chairman of the supreme council for reconstructing areas devastated by a 1982 earthquake that killed about 3,000 people.

Mr. Ahmad Mohammad Al Asbahi, formerly foreign minister, was made minister of social affairs and labour, replacing Mr. Ahmad Saleh Al Ru'aini, who became minister of state for cabinet affairs, the radio said.

Mr. Hussein Abdullah Al Amri was appointed minister of education, replacing Mr. Abdul Wahed Aziz Al Zindani who left the cabinet. Mr. Fuad Qaid became minister of supply and trade, replacing Mr. Mohammad Al Adil, it added.

Fahd receives Swiss leader

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabian King Fahd received Sunday the vice-president of the Swiss Confederation Kurt Furgler who has been discussing means of developing economic cooperation between his country and the kingdom.

The official Saudi Press Agency said the meeting was attended by the Saudi Minister of Industry and Electricity Abdul Aziz Al Zamil but provided no further details.

Mr. Furgler, who is also economic minister, and Mr. Zamil earlier in the day signed the minutes of the fifth session of the Swiss-Saudi Joint Economic Commission which they co-chaired.

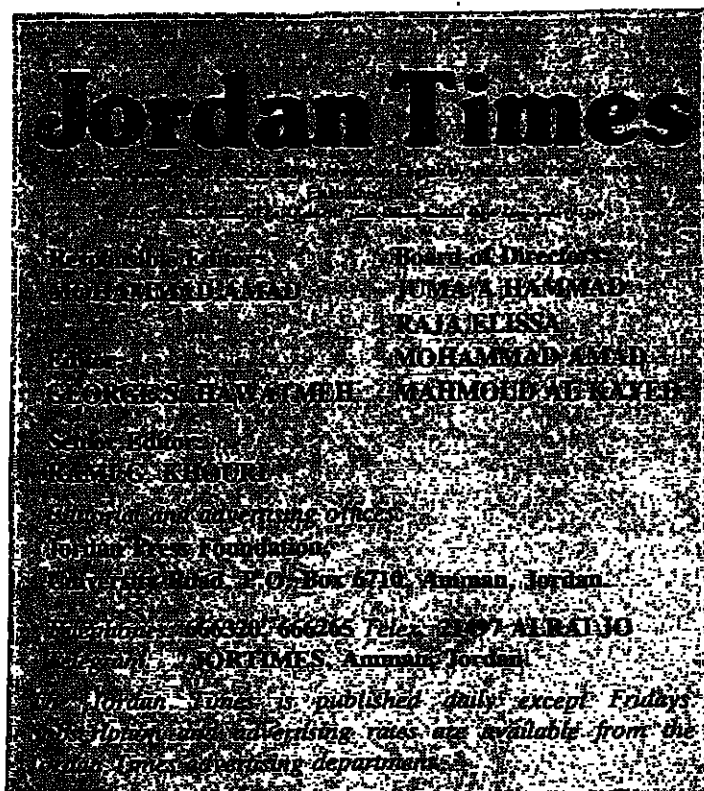
The commission began meetings in this Saudi capital city on Saturday where Mr. Zamil expressed the kingdom's interest in having 30 per cent of Swiss export commodities to the kingdom manufactured locally through joint ventures.

The kingdom is the biggest market outside Europe after the United States for Swiss products of which it imported to the worth of 3.16 billion riyals (\$898 million) in 1983.

The deputy head of the Swiss delegation Benedikt Tschanner also signalled that the commission discussed admitting Saudi petrochemicals into Switzerland duty free. One of the kingdom's top priorities at present is to find markets for nascent Saudi petrochemical plants.

The Swiss vice-president flies Monday to Jordan at the conclusion of his four-day visit to the kingdom.

TV & RADIO	
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Army deployment could signal peace for Lebanon

By Andrew Tarnowski
Reuters

BEIRUT — After nearly seven months of sterile squabbling, sporadic fighting and near paralysis, Lebanon's "national unity" government may at last be poised to lead the country into a new era of peace.

This weekend it hopes to set in motion measures that could signal the beginning of the end of a 10-year civil war which left 100,000 dead, and caused destruction and sectarian hatred threatening to split the country forever.

The plan involves a phased army deployment along 110 kilometres of coastal road held by sectarian militias north and south of Beirut and will re-link Beirut, Tripoli and Sidon, Lebanon's three main cities, for the first time in years.

If all goes well in Sunday's first phase, the army will move in, with the agreement of all major sectarian groups, to take over the last militia outposts in Beirut and remove the last barricades dividing it into Christian and Muslim sectors.

A week later, troops are to start deploying on the coast road south of Beirut.

A powerful Muslim militia leader says if the deployments take place, the war that began in 1975 will have ended.

"I believe that if the pacification of the coastal road is realised, the Lebanese war will have ended," said a Muslim militia leader.

Unlike several similar projects sunk by sectarian distrust in the past year, the government's latest

"security plan" has the approval of all Lebanon's major rival groups.

Though currently boycotting the cabinet, Druze chief Walid Jumblatt has authorised Mr. Berri to act for him, and Amal aides deny reports that he has serious misgivings about the plan.

Even so, Mr. Berri is cautious. "The trial is certainly not over yet, but we have passed from deep pessimism to a state of neither optimism nor pessimism," he declared.

A month ago Mr. Berri was threatening to leave the cabinet, angered by lack of progress towards political reforms demanded by Muslims, and his aides were forecasting a new round of war.

But since then, rightwing Christians and their Muslim opponents agree there have been major developments and changes

of attitude on all sides.

With mist rising from the mountain valley beside the parade ground, a dozen small army units from all over Lebanon goose-stepped past the stand to the beat of a police and an army band.

The army has been slowly rebuilding itself after sectarian splits in 1983 and this year, and the government considers its help essential in taking over a reunified Lebanon.

"We should confirm our wager on the army," Mr. Gemayel said. Helicopters and three 1950 vintage hawk hunter jets flew over mainly Muslim West Beirut and the Defence Ministry, just outside Christian east Beirut. Soldiers helped a crate of unwilling white doves into the sky.

Mr. Gemayel was elected in 1982 as seventh president of the 210 kilometre republic since inde-

pendence from France in 1943. As many as 100,000 people of the country's three million inhabitants may have died in civil strife since 1975, thousands of them in communal fighting since Mr. Gemayel came to power.

"It has not been easy to stand firm, with all those waves sweeping over the afflicted homeland to shake many of its people," Mr. Gemayel said.

Probably on Sunday, Muslim, Druze and Christian troops will start occupying 40 kilometres of coast road south of Beirut, down to Israel's Awali River lines, ready to take over the south from the Israelis.

Druze and Christian militias holding the road, and the shattered towns along it, are to leave as the army moves in.

In the most crucial operation, troops will simultaneously occupy

the Iklim Al-Kharroub region near Israeli lines, where Druze forces could start heavy fighting and destroy the long reconciliation process.

But if the deployment succeeds, the army will then move into Christian heartlands along the coast road above Beirut and link up with troops in Tripoli, 70 kilometres north.

In the most symbolic part of the northern takeover, troops will dismantle a checkpoint at Barabara, 40 kilometres from Beirut, run by the "Lebanese Forces" as a lucrative illegal customs post on the northern "frontier" of its territory.

Political sources say the Christians have already showed acceptance of the government's plans by surrendering their profitable illegal ports earlier this month.

Where the hope lies

FOUR DAMASCUS based but independent Palestinian factions, grouped in a "democratic alliance", are pressing hard to keep the door open for a post-PNC reconciliation with Fateh. The issue of holding the PNC itself is not any more a sticking point for them, it seems. They criticised it after they attempted to prevent it, as is known, but now it is not the council itself that is the problem. The problem is what changes the PNC will effect, both on the organisational and political levels, that will mean the most for them.

For the "democratic alliance" to keep unity with Fateh, the PNC has to draw red lines for itself, the independents believe, and these lines must not be crossed. First, there is the answer to the King's call for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian initiative; the alliance does not want it to be positive. The other condition for a reconciliation is that Fateh should not take all the vacant PLO executive seats for itself. The third and the fourth are not to restore ties with Egypt and not to sever all relations with Damascus.

As yet, Fateh's position on either question is not final. The largest and most powerful PLO organisation wants to keep all its options open. The new Executive Committee will study the King's call and an answer will come in time, according to Fateh officials. Executive seats do not seem to be a problem, depending on which way the PNC goes of course. Egypt may be something different, but relations with Syria are more thorny.

The issues are intertwined. But what should the Fateh position be in this case?

What the King offered the PNC in its opening session is not an initiative but a framework for a joint Jordan-PLO move to break the deadlock over the Palestinian problem. The "democratic alliance" seems to misunderstand — intentionally or unintentionally — the King's call in that it is seen as a call only for accepting 242. Well, it is not. The King called for full Palestinian representation in international talks based on the implementation of the U.N. resolution; this is a totally new element introduced into the Middle East equation that no Palestinian or Arab could ignore.

On this score at least, Fateh should not use the "democratic alliance's" analysis of 242 as a pretext to ignore the Jordanian call for joint moves. The Fateh leadership is courageous enough to take its own initiative, and is fully aware of the problem with the U.S. and Israel. Fateh must also be aware that the PNC would never have been held had Mr. Arafat listened to the advice of the PFLP and DFLP in this respect.

Of course Palestinian unity is important. But unity without purpose and direction is always lacking — almost without meaning. The Fateh leadership has gone this far to keep the Palestinian people together and the revolution together. We expect from it to continue leading the Palestinian struggle to where the real hope lies.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King's initiative awaits answers

NO DOUBT that all those concerned over the Palestinian issue are now awaiting the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) decision about the future. Everyone is looking towards the PLO and the Palestine National Council (PNC) for a reply to an initiative submitted to them on Thursday by His Majesty King Hussein on future cooperation for joint action.

Of course the King's initiative is not binding to anyone and the PNC and PLO leaders have the right to accept or reject it. But no doubt all Arabs and foreign observers are now waiting to see whether the initiative will be accepted. To reach a decision on this, requires efforts and consultations among PLO and PNC members, and it also requires democratic dialogue like the one now taking place within the PNC members.

The PNC members should, as they are doing now in tackling different problems, take a decision after sounding out the views of the majority. But they should not take very long to do that as no one can waste time in the present circumstances, and no one would like to see further efforts and resources being wasted or sapped. The PLO leaders realise the dangers that threaten their course of action but they should know that further hesitation and further procrastination are more dangerous to their cause.

Al Dustour: Kaddoumi stressed special ties

A REPORT presented to the Palestine National Council (PNC) Saturday by Farouk Al Kaddoumi tackled the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship more than any other subject and highlighted the strength of ties between the people on both banks of the River Jordan throughout history. The report reflects the importance which the PLO attaches to Jordanian-Palestinian links and manifests desire to see these links further bolstered to benefit the Arab people in the East and the West Bank.

The report stressed the demographic, geographic and historic links that bind the Palestinians and the Jordanians and the interaction and cohesion among the members of the same family to safeguard their common interests. This relationship, as the report pointed out, has a special character and marks the true unity among the two parts of the Kingdom.

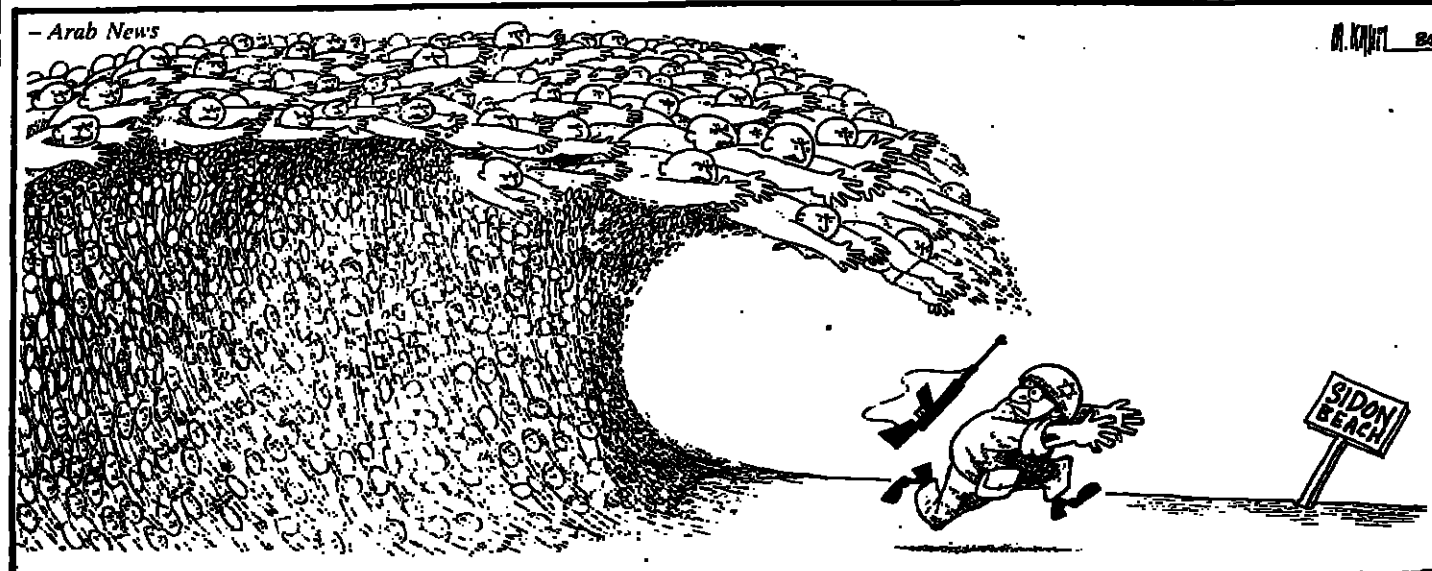
This emphasis on the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship assumes a bigger dimension, coming in the present circumstances, and amidst tension in the Middle East region as the Zionists continue their drive to evict our people and offer alternative homelands for them.

Sawt Al Shaab: PNC has the answer

KING HUSSEIN's address to the Palestine National Council (PNC) on Thursday has drawn world-wide reactions in view of its importance and in the light of the options it contained. In fact, the situation does not allow any more delay or procrastination, and the events are moving fast in our region. Jordanians and Palestinians face a common destiny and are partners in confronting danger and future developments, and therefore they should find a means to regain land in exchange for peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

This option was contained in King Hussein's speech to the PNC in which he stressed the need for convening an international conference under U.N. auspices to ensure the return of the occupied territories to their legitimate owners. In fact, adherence to earlier stands on the part of the Arabs has brought about a deadlock in solving the Palestine issue and has also delayed meaningful efforts designed to establish genuine peace.

Both Jordanians and Palestinians are invited to put meaningless slogans aside and embark on meaningful work and joint efforts so as to avoid further divisions and further waste of time and effort. Both sides should reach a joint formula to present to the world which understands only unanimity and one language.



Shultz-Gromyko meeting may break ice

By Sidney Weiland
Reuters

LONDON — Western officials Thursday welcomed plans for an early U.S.-Soviet arms control meeting and forecast steady movement into a new negotiating process.

The agreement that Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko should meet was seen by West European diplomats as a major step forward after a 12-month break in superpower arms talks.

Reagan administration officials in California confirmed Wednesday night that Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko would meet soon, and said an "announcement" was likely by the end of this week.

"It represents relatively good movement, it breaks the logjam," a senior NATO arms control official said.

Other diplomats said European governments were encouraged that the meeting was arranged only weeks after Moscow and Washington began backstage contacts designed to lead them back to the negotiating table.

"It's pretty good going," a highly-placed official said. "It means the process is getting res-

tarted with a significant political impulse."

There was no immediate confirmation of U.S. reports that the meeting would take place in Geneva in January, but some European-based diplomats said they expected it even before President Reagan's second-term inauguration on Jan. 21.

The agreement became known almost exactly one year after the Soviet Union walked out of negotiations on medium-range nuclear missiles in Geneva. The Nov. 23 walkout followed the arrival of new U.S. missiles in Western Europe.

Parallel negotiations on strategic missiles were "suspended" last December. The only arms talks to continue have been in wider East-West and other forums where lesser issues such as troop levels and chemical weapons have been discussed.

A key element in the accelerating movement towards new talks appears to be that Moscow is no longer insisting on the prior removal of about 100 U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles deployed in Europe since last November, diplomats said.

Officials said evident Soviet inter-

est in resuming arms negotiations was very positive and hopeful.

They said the Shultz-Gromyko meeting would probably initiate an "umbrella" process embracing a broad range of arms problems, as proposed by Mr. Reagan in September.

Moscow has shown interest in the idea, but is not known to have accepted it so far.

U.S. officials say Washington also has not yet formulated a "grand design" for an umbrella approach, and may wait to canvass Soviet views before Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko meet.

Senior European arms control experts believe the ministers will discuss only broad, general aspects of arms control.

This could be followed either by resuming separate negotiations on medium-range and strategic missiles, or by seeking a new format, such as combining the two sets of talks.

Georgy Arbatov, the chief Soviet adviser on U.S. affairs, suggested in Moscow Thursday that the Soviet government wanted "to take a broad approach and not to pick out one issue or two."

An official in London who is in

close touch with U.S. thinking predicted a "step-by-step approach."

Some diplomats think discussions may be limited to general principles, without negotiations on specific weapons, until Mr. Reagan can meet Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko. A summit has been vaguely mentioned on both sides.

"We may be heading into a broad review, to see how arms control fits into the wider political process," a diplomat said.

Most Western experts think a summit is unlikely until the second half of 1985 at the earliest.

NATO sources said they were convinced after contacts with Washington that the administration would avoid setting conditions which could be used by Moscow as a pretext to back out of the embryonic negotiating process.

One idea that has been under study in the West is a straight trade-off system that would cut back, for example, on American air- or sea-launched cruise missiles in exchange for reductions in Soviet bombers or heavy intercontinental missiles.

Referendum success crucial to Alfonsin

By John Reichertz
Reuters

BUENOS AIRES — Success in a referendum on the proposed solution to the Beagle Channel border dispute with Chile on Sunday is crucial to Argentina's young government, politicians say.

The month-long campaign leading up to the vote has turned into an acid battle between President Raul Alfonsin's Radical Party and the main opposition Peronist Party.

Peronists said the treaty, which cedes some disputed land and sea areas to Chile, was "Argentina's worst diplomatic defeat this century," and said Radicals were traitors for initiating it.

Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said the treaty was the best Argentina could hope for. Radicals have accused the Peronists, who campaign for abstention, of not being Democrats, an emotional accusation in a country where eight years of military rule ended a

year ago.

The century-old dispute over territory at the southern tip of South America brought Chile and Argentina to the brink of war in 1978.

The bickering has turned the ballot into a popularity contest between government and opposition, the politicians said.

The treaty has also come under criticism in Chile, where Navy Commander Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has said it is not entirely favourable to Chile.

Those who vote "yes" Sunday will approve a treaty which grants three disputed islands — Picton, Lennox and Nueva — to Chile, but limits their territorial waters by a line extending southwards from Cape Horn as sought by Argentina.

Those who cast a "no" vote will reject the solution worked out in five years of mediation by the Vatican.

Mr. Alfonsin, who revived for

the campaign the barnstorming style that gave him a sweeping election victory against the Peronists in October 1983, has said the government will respect the voters' decision.

If the treaty is rejected, newspaper columnist Silvina Bullrich said, "the government will find itself rebuffed and this long awaited and new Argentine democracy will find that its shine has been tarnished."

Few politicians and pollsters, however, foresee a rejection. The government is expected to come out on top but its victory could be marred by a high abstention rate.

The unprecedented referendum is the first time in Argentine history that voters do not have a legal obligation to go to the polls. In normal elections those who abstain face stiff fines.

"If a small number vote, it will only provide cheer to the partisans of violence and dictatorship in Argentina," Mr. Alfonsin said,

reflecting government concern.

The stakes are high too for the divided Peronists, weakened by the defection of a few key leaders. The party's official leader, former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, has hinted of her approval of the treaty.

Peronist sources said that a sweeping victory for Mr. Alfonsin could force a major realignment within the party.

An opinion poll released this week forecast a low abstention rate ranging between three and 11 per cent and contradicting the predictions of many political observers.

Mr. Alfonsin has pushed the treaty saying it will help him cut costly arms expenditures, improve Argentina's negotiating position in its dispute with Britain over the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands, make way for increased cooperation with Chile and promote Latin American integration.

NATO officer sees no recent Soviet advance

By Patric Worslop
Reuters

NAPLES, Italy — NATO's southern headquarters says he is optimistic about the alliance's ability to defend its southern flank and sees no sign of improvement in the Soviet military position in the area in the past 18 months.

U.S. Admiral William Small told a briefing for correspondents from NATO countries Thursday that the southern region no longer felt neglected by the alliance.

He added that policy trends in the three countries included in the region — Italy, Greece and Turkey — made him hopeful that the

area could defend itself.

His comments at Naples regional headquarters contrasted with gloomy assessments which military commentators have often made in the past about NATO's southern flank, where Greece and Turkey have long been quarrelling over Cyprus and rights in the Aegean Sea.

He said the Soviet Mediterranean squadron remained at between 38 and 42 ships and about the same number of submarines. NATO had a three-to-one naval superiority in the Mediterranean over the Warsaw Pact, he said.

Small said he was "a bit san-

guine" about prospects for the area provided Turkey, Greece and Italy continued with programmes to modernise their armed forces and kept up military spending.

If they did so, it would "be a very favourable sign, not only for the balance down here but also for the reversal of some adverse trend lines that have been evident for many years," he said.

"In the long run, and particularly compared perhaps to some other regions of NATO, we are holding our own," he added. Small said the introduction of the flying radar system known as AWACS (airborne warning and

control systems) had enabled the region to make strides that would have taken 20 or 30 years by improving ground radars and command and control systems.

Strategy now evolving meant NATO naval forces, and land and air forces ashore, increasingly had to support each other, he said.

He explained that the main "threat" to NATO forces in the Mediterranean was not the Soviet fleet, but air power based inside the Soviet Union. The air and land force ratio ashore was two-and-a-half to one against NATO, he added.

No holds barred in Peru's dirty war

A guerrilla conflict in the highlands in southern Peru is now costing at least 100 lives a month, and shows no sign of abating, Robert Graham, recently in the area, reports.

The highlands round Ayacucho in southern Peru possess a wild, bare beauty. They rise in huge rolling humps up to 4,500 metres, the tops often enveloped in cloud. Here are some of the most impoverished and isolated rural communities in Peru, all of whom are ethnically Indian and still speak Quechua, not Spanish. These communities have become the centre of a cruel conflict that is now costing at least 100 lives a month.

Since 1980, a fanatical guerrilla group, Sendero-Luminoso (Shining Path) has been struggling to turn Ayacucho into the cradle of a Maoist revolution. The guerrillas' aim is first to gain control of the countryside, then destroy the cities, Cambodia-style.

Having long dismissed Sendero as a minor subversive threat, the government of President Fernando Belaunde Terry has begun to show serious concern over the extent of the guerrillas' success, both in their capacity to attract support and their ability to commit acts of terror and sabotage.

Since July the military have taken over complete charge of the fight against Sendero. Up to 5,000 members of the armed forces are now operating in Ayacucho and two neighbouring departments, large tracts of which are under a state of emergency.

The town's population of 80,000 has been swollen to over 100,000 by refugees from the countryside. The atmosphere is more tense 60 kilometres to the north round Huanta, which has become the focus of the military's counter-insurgency effort led by elite marine units. Many of the richer merchants have fled, their locked houses bearing the telltale sign of Sendero's death warrant — the words "traitor, usurper" scrawled on the door.

On the day I visited Huanta, a funeral service was being held in the main square for two truck drivers found strangled on the outskirts of the town. Five days previously they had been dragged by unidentified men from their homes late at night.

In another part of town, 27 bodies found in a common grave were being formally identified in the morgue. Accusations were made both against Sendero and the military for the killings, the accusations seeming more important than any possible motive.

This is a dirty war of unseen enemies and innocent victims. In the 12 months up to July 1984, 3,000 persons died, according to official figures. The toll keeps rising.

Sendero is the inspiration of Mr. Abimael Guzman, a former lecturer at Ayacucho University influenced by the writings of Marx, Lenin and a prominent Peruvian leftist of the twenties, Mr. Jose Carlos Mariategui (who talked of Marxist-Leninism offering the "shining path" toward revolution).

The movement is hermetic, contemptuous of publicity and xenophobic, advocating a primitive form of rural Luddism. The gue-

rrillas, for instance, slaughtered the entire cow-herd of Ayacucho University's model farm simply because the breed was foreign. Sendero owes its support to the historic failure of central government to develop the region and integrate its Indian culture.

Sendero's tactic has been to destroy all manifestations of central authority and capitalist oppression in the peasants' daily life — by assassinating mayors, blowing up state-owned machinery, assaulting police stations. Only the Church has been spared, due to a fear of offending the deep religious sentiments of the Indians.

Until the military went on the offensive in July, Sendero had encountered little real opposition from the security forces since the burden had fallen on small outposts of the police and Republican Guard. But the military's appearance has radically altered the picture. Villagers are now being moved into "strategic hamlets".

The policy has helped deny Sendero civilian cover; and the group has responded by moving some of its guerrillas further north out of the Ayacucho region. More sabotage has also been evident in Lima itself. But if the military have begun to gain some initiative on the ground, they are not, withering hearts and minds.

Mr. Fernando Olivera, a senior official in the Attorney General's office, is currently investigating a long list of missing persons, detained by the military. In particular, he is investigating the deaths of 50 persons found bound, tortured and shot in the head in a common grave near Huanta on Aug. 24.

He is also investigating the case of Mr. Jaime Ayala, a journalist for the Lima daily newspaper Republica who went into the headquarters of the marines in Huanta stadium on Aug. 2 and has not been seen since.

Remote mountain communities are being moved to temporary settlements lower down where they are protected by troops. "We were told by the marines to move. If we refuse they call us Senderistas; and we get killed. If we accept, then we cannot plant our crops and may have to fight Sendero," said one villager near Huanta.

The strategic hamlets are polarising the conflict, fuelling traditional inter-communal feuds and raising the level of violence.

The military are unhappy about the civilian government intervention, in this way, hurt that they should be criticised more than Sendero. But when Sendero holds no "liberated" territory and relies solely on the support, tacit or active, of the local population, the propaganda war is all important.

The military are also up against the government's need for quick solutions. Without security, no development money can be spent, and until development money is spent the central government will remain an alien presence. Sendero, meanwhile, is committed to a timeless conflict — a Financial Times news feature.

LETTERS

Manhattan's origin known

To the Editor:

In Wednesday's (Nov. 14, 1984) edition of the Jordan Times we read the following information in your column named origin of words:

Manhattan: origin unknown.

As you can easily find out by writing to (or visiting) the Museum of the American Indian, Broadway at 155th Street, New York, the origin of the word is very well known.

I would also like to point out that the Manhattan cocktail was named not after the island but for the old Manhattan Club where it was first concocted (quote from Owen Edwards' "My Father's Martinis" in Cuisine, October 1984).

M. Majali,
Amman

on U.S.-backed Israel never ceased trying to monopolise water

By Leslie C. Schmidt

A CENTRAL feature of all early Israeli water projects was irrigation of the Negev, motivated by a desire for "the dispersal of settlement throughout the length and breadth of the state for political and security reasons," despite ample evidence in Israel that this constituted inefficient use of the region's resources.

DESPITE THE inadvisability of undertaking such a project, Israel persisted in its plan to irrigate the Negev by diverting the Jordan River out of the watershed area to the desert. This was the central feature of the National Water Carrier project, the first stages of which began almost immediately after the 1948 Armistice Agreement which gave Israel partial access to the Jordan headwaters and Lake Huleh, in turn necessary to irrigate the coastal plain and the Negev — as proposed in the Lowdermilk-Hayes Plan.

The Lowdermilk-Hayes Plan from the beginning aroused the anger of the Arabs because of its basic intention to divert water away from the Jordan Valley and its people. Any benefits Jordan would receive from the project were to be postponed until subsequent stages of the plan. According to the Hayes report, "the recovery of the remaining Jordan waters must await completion of the previous irrigation works and diversions for the river, which will enable a more accurate determination of what is left in the Jordan. In other words, Israel would take what water it desired from the Jordan River, and if significant flow remained, Jordan might also benefit from hydrological development of the river, almost all of which flowed in Jordanian territory."

The first stages of the water carrier project were implemented soon after the General Armistice Agreement and involved Israeli activities inside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) which was being administered by the Mixed Armistice Commission (MAC) under the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) auspices. In 1951, Israel moved bulldozers and military units into the DMZ and began to drain the Huleh swamp area, temporarily occupying 100 acres and permanently occupying seven acres of Arab-owned land in the DMZ. The Israeli government tried to buy the land, but the Arabs refused to sell. Israel continued working nonetheless, firing upon Syrian troops who moved closer but did not return fire. U.S. Maj. Gen. A.R. Bolling, assistant army chief of staff for intelligence, characterized the situation as follows: "...

Apparently, Israel is prepared to risk military operations against any of the Arab states, and several recent Israeli actions appear to have been designed, at least in part, to provoke Arab initiation of hostilities." "Quite a different perspective was portrayed by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, who claimed resources even within the DMZ and asserted, "our soldiers in the north are defending the Jordan water resources so that water may be brought to the farmers of the Negev."

Syria took the issue to the U.N. Security Council for resolution, claiming that no state had absolute sovereignty in the DMZ and that there could be no unilateral action

there which might alter the status quo without the acquiescence of the MAC chairman or the other party. Syria interpreted this Israeli action as a first step toward annexation of the DMZ. Israel, meanwhile, refused to attend MAC meetings held in the DMZ, insisting that the zone was under Israeli sovereignty; it therefore refused to accept any UNTSO ruling on the matter. The UNTSO chief of staff denied Israel's sovereignty over the area, at the same time refuting Syria's charge that Israeli activities were upsetting the military balance in the DMZ. He further ruled that the Israeli activity would be legal if it did not upset normal life in the DMZ and if it did not affect the rights of Arabs there. The Security Council concurred in this judgment, ordered Israel to cease work on the drainage, and authorised only civilian projects in the DMZ. Israel suspended the project after the U.N. ruling, but used the authorisation for civilian activities as a justification for the diversion which it would undertake two years later.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at this time was also formulating plans for water resource development. Named after Max Bugar, a U.S. representative stationed in Jordan, the Bugar Plan proposed hydrological and irrigation development at Maqarin on the Yarmuk River. The two beneficiaries, Jordan and Syria, approved the plan in 1953, and UNRWA apportioned \$40 million towards the project's estimated total cost of \$70 million. The U.S. Technical Cooperation Agency (USTCA) and the Jordanian government also agreed to cofinance the dam.

Israeli protests began immediately, and Israeli leaders demanded that, as a lower riparian on the Yarmuk, Israel should be consulted in any plans involving that river. In July 1953, three representatives of the Palestine Electric Corporation met with the U.S. permanent representative to the U.N., the U.N. secretary general, and British government officials to complain about the Bugar Plan. The Israelis claimed that the "Palestine Electric Corporation has the concessionary rights to the exclusive use of the waters of such an electric power system. It calls attention to its well-acquired rights and its intention to vindicate those rights."

The British officially maintained that the matter should be resolved among the corporation, Jordan and Israel, while the U.S., considering the 1926 concession to the "Palestine Electric Corporation to be of questionable validity, withdrew its financial support from the project and pressured UNRWA to do the same. President Eisenhower reiterated his earlier assertions that development of the entire Jordan Valley watershed should be a cooperative venture among all riparian states.

Jordan Valley Authority

For several years already, the Eisenhower administration had advocated the establishment of a Jordan Valley Authority, primarily because of its prospective capacity to permanently resettle Palestinian refugees on lands that could be made productive through such a venture. In 1952, UNRWA had requested the Tennessee Valley Authority to synthesise unilateral Arab and Israeli plans for regional water resource development, and with the help of Charles T. Main engineering con-

sulting firm in Boston, the draft for a unified plan was designed. The plan was almost completed when it was learned that Israel had begun diverting the Jordan River at Jisr Banat Ya'qub in the DMZ.

The diversion, begun in September, was characterised by the Israelis as a small one designed only to provide hydroelectric power. However, the canal was larger than necessary for this purpose, and Israeli officials later admitted that it was actually intended to carry large volumes of water to the Beit Natufa Reservoir and then to the Negev.

This action came as an unpleasant surprise to U.S. officials. Not only had Israel enthusiastically endorsed the principle of regional cooperation two months earlier, but the U.S. Foreign Operations Administration, which had assisted the Ministry of Agriculture in developing a national water plan, had no previous knowledge of the diversion. No line-item had been entered for it in the Israeli national budget, giving credibility to suspicions that the diversion had been hastily implemented in order to preclude the regional agreement towards which the U.S. was working.

Partly in response to internal pressure from the kibbutz and moshav movements — two main elements of the Mapam party espousing agricultural interests who lobbied their Knesset spokesmen to continue the diversion — Israel ignored all UNTSO and U.S. requests to cease work on the canal. Instead, the work crews were enlarged, an extra shift added, and floodlights were installed to enable round-the-clock construction.

Once again, Syria turned to the Security Council for arbitration, arguing that its own water interests would suffer and Israel's military advantage would improve if the canal were completed. Abba Eban, then Israeli ambassador to the U.S. and the U.N., referring to the all-but-nominal Rutenberg Concession, sought to establish that since the concession was granted to a private concern, work in the DMZ was authorised under the Security Council ruling of 1951. By 1953, however, the Palestine Electric Corporation had incorporated Israeli state interests. Eleven years later the name would change to the Israeli Electric Corporation, Ltd., with the state by that time a major shareholder.

U.S. double dealing

This placed the U.S. administration in the awkward position of supporting the U.N.'s role in the DMZ while providing aid that enabled Israel to blatantly contradict all UNTSO policies, procedures and requests. On Sept. 18 Secretary of State John Foster Dulles informed the Israeli ambassador in Washington that until Israel halted the Jisr Banat Ya'qub diversion, the U.S. would suspend economic aid to Israel. No public disclosure was made regarding this U.S. action until almost a month later, when international outcry over the Israeli attack on the Palestinian village of Qibya made announcement of the already-implemented aid cutoff a moral and political imperative.

Several days later, the U.S. State Department announced the imminent conclusion of the Main Plan (which followed the Bugar Plan) for development of the Jordan River watershed, for which the U.S. would pay most of the projected cost of \$121 million. Little attention was paid to this

event in either the U.S. or Israel, where Zionists were up in arms about the U.S. aid cutoff; the question of the Jisr Banat Ya'qub diversion was conveniently ignored. Then, on Oct. 29, President Eisenhower announced that the Israelis had stopped work on the diversion and would cooperate with the U.N. to resolve the regional water dispute. U.S. aid to Israel was immediately restored.

Israel's willingness to cooperate with U.N. and U.S. mediators was relatively short-lived, for the diversion project was resumed in 1956. However, the Israelis then discovered that the bedrock of

formalised in the seven-year plan which Israel adopted in 1953, whereby the country's water supply would be doubled by 1961 from 810 mcm to 1,730 mcm annually. This was soon replaced by a ten-year plan to divert 500 mcm from the Upper Jordan River to the Negev, entailing the tapping of underground resources and construction of a pipeline from the Galilee region to the Negev.

The Israelis completed this pipeline in the early 1960's and proceeded to pump saline water into the Jordan River just north of the Armistice Line, polluting the river below that point. According to the

maintaining its water level despite the diversion of the Jordan River headwaters:

4. Utilisation of Lake Tiberias as a storage facility, raising the lake two meters to enlarge its capacity;

5. Building canals from Lake Tiberias to both the East and West Ghor and Zhor in the Jordan Valley in order to settle 150,000 refugees in that area;

6. Possibly building a dam at Maqarin on the Yarmuk. The Main Plan specified that the entire usable water supply be distributed by gravity flow within the watershed area, and suggested that international supervision accompany the plan's implementation. Formulated without any field study and without regard to state boundaries or to the legal limits of water rights in the region, the report was based instead upon topographical maps and previous studies of varying degrees of accuracy. In such a highly politicised environment, these were indeed serious oversights.

Reactions to the Main Plan, also known as the Unified Plan or the Johnston Plan, illustrate the various parties' perspectives on the feasibility and desirability of any regional water plan. Israeli officials stated that "its transparent purpose is to hamstring Israel and transfer the control over its waters to foreigners. It completely disregards the irrigation of the Negev, which is due to become the country's main supplier of grain and vegetables." The basic principle of in-basin use of river water was violently rejected by Israel. Israeli criticism of the plan included the argument that Jordan's water quota and estimated irrigable land as defined by Main "were exaggerated," and thus 150 mcm of water were to be permitted to "flow wasted into the Dead Sea despite Israel's demonstrable needs in the Negev." Finally, Israel rejected the idea of storing Yarmuk water in Tiberias because the Yarmuk runs almost entirely through Arab territory and it did not want the Arabs to have a legitimate claim to the lake.

The Johnston Mission

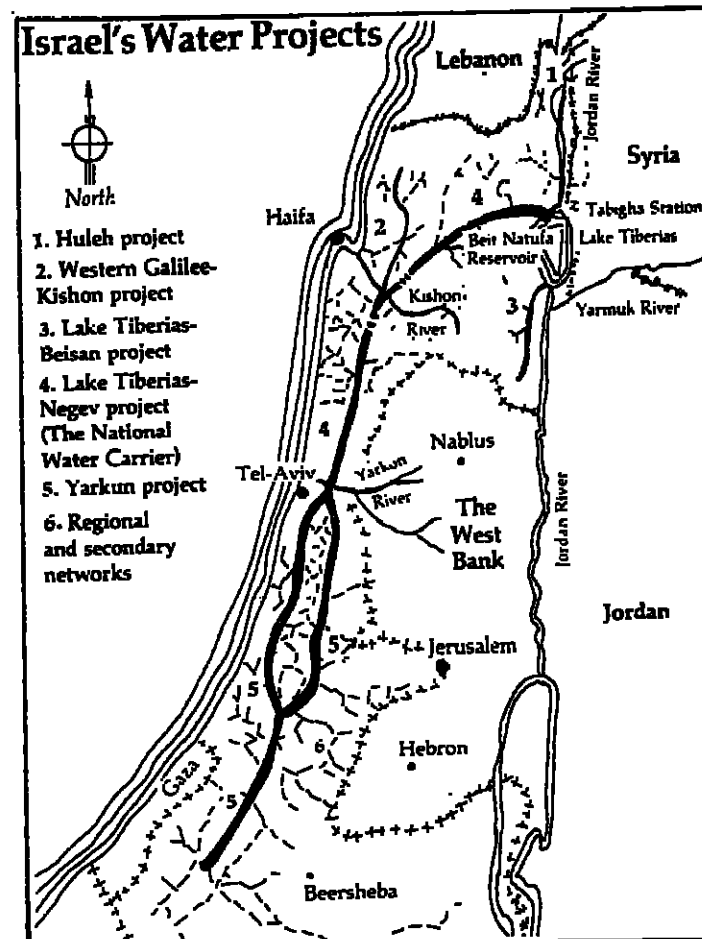
Immediately following Israel's raid at Qibya, Syrian complaints to the U.N. Security Council regarding Israel's diversion activities in the DMZ, and suspension of the Bugar Plan, President Eisenhower sent Eric Johnston to the region to present the main plan to the various protagonists in an attempt to negotiate a settlement. Johnston's mission occurred before the dust had settled from the above-mentioned incidents, and just as Israel was publishing its own unilateral seven-year water development plan.

By the terms of the Main Plan, Israel was to be allocated 33 per cent of the total watershed, although only 23 per cent of those waters originated in Israel. The plan's most important provisions were as follows:

1. Building a dam on the Hasbani in Lebanon to transfer water to the Tel Hay power site (in Israel);

2. Diverting the Sarid springs (in Israel) and the Banyas, Dan, Wazzani and Hazbani rivers (all partly or wholly outside Israel) to irrigate the regions of Huleh, Upper Galilee, Jishahar and Jezreel Valley (all within Israel);

3. Building a dam on the Yarmuk at Adasiya to divert flood flows to Lake Tiberias, thus main-



in the Jordan Valley area than previously thought, and that its water duty (the water requirements for specific crops) had been overestimated in the past. However, the water duties and cropping patterns upon which the engineers based their recommendations assumed extensive areas of barley production, although barley was already in surplus in Jordan and hence not a reasonable crop by which to assess Jordan's water needs. Tomatoes, squash and other vegetables commonly cultivated in the Middle East require much more water than does barley, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture information.

Jordan's share of regional waters as stipulated by the Main Plan was nonetheless reduced. Israel, meanwhile, continued to complain that the figures calculated by Baker and Harza for Jordan's water duty were still too high; Israeli engineers maintained that the large amounts of groundwater in the Jordan Valley indicated that the kingdom should receive less water from the Jordan River. One may speculate as to whether the groundwater to which the Israelis referred was that water table lying under the West Bank from which the Jews in Palestine were drawing water even before 1948.

The "Arab Plan," submitted to Johnston in 1954, incorporated the principles established in the Baker-Harza report, including the dam at Maqarin and in-basin use of Jordan River water. A technical committee was established under the auspices of the Arab League, with representatives from Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, to make further studies of regional water issues and the ramifications of various proposals. A key provision in the Arab Plan as presented to Johnston was that the region's waters would be distributed by gravity flow rather than by pumping works. This would keep Jordan River water inside the river basin — where the existing volume of water was already insufficient for irrigating all of the basin's irrigable lands — rather than diverting it to the Negev as the Israelis proposed.

The water quotas which resulted from the application of this principle of in-basin water use, as listed in Table I clearly were unacceptable to the Israelis, who had already prepared their own alternative plan, which was equally unacceptable to the Arabs. The Israeli proposal, called the Cotton Plan after a consulting U.S. engineer, included the waters of Lebanon's Litani River; the Israelis argued that since hydroelectric benefits could be obtained by utilising the drop in altitude between the river's source and the Jordan Valley, it could not be excluded from any regional plan. This diversion, in their opinion, would reduce the salinity of Lake Tiberias and increase the flow in the Jordan River after Israel diverted the waters north of the lake and the Kingdom of Jordan diverted the Yarmuk.

Johnston returned to the Middle East no closer to a solution than when he left. Faced with two essentially conflicting proposals, Johnston was clearly more supportive of Israeli demands, except that for the Litani. "If you tell me now," stated Johnston to the "Arabs," unequivocally, "that the water must be used within the basin, then I will tell you here that there is no use in my going to the Israelis at all..." The essential conflict of whether the plan's purpose was to develop the Negev or the Jordan Valley was thus in essence "resolved" in favour of the Israelis.

Johnston also offered Israel, on the basis of the latter's refutation of the Baker-Harza report, a higher water quota than had existed in the initial plan, and he accepted the Israeli demand for unencumbered diversion of river water outside the river basin. The only "concession" Israel made in the negotiations was to use Lake Tiberias as a reservoir, although this was because the first-choice site for a reservoir at Beit Natufa was no longer a feasible alternative because of leakage; therefore, Jordan would be allowed to build the Maqarin Dam in order to store the waters of the Yarmuk.

— The Link, published in New York by the Americans for Middle East Understanding.

To be continued Tuesday

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Athletics chiefs reject Seoul timing request

CANBERRA (R) — International athletics chiefs Sunday rejected a request by the organisers of the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games that some major track and field finals be held in the morning rather than late in the day.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said it proposed keeping to the traditional Olympic schedule, a move that could cost the 1988 Olympics millions of dollars in television rights.

The Seoul Olympic Organising (SOOC) had told the IAAF at its three-day meeting here that it wanted about a third of the major events, including the glamour races, to be brought forward.

But IAAF President Dr. Primo Nebiolo told a news conference the federation was a traditional organisation.

"We have decided on this following the wishes and the discussions of our federation members," Nebiolo said.

A timetable change would have broken with Olympic tradition but the South Koreans have been seeking to maximise revenue through the sale of U.S. television rights.

Morning events could have been shown live on prime-time television in the United States where Eastern Standard Time is 14 hours behind South Korea.

Organisers said in Seoul earlier this month that the sale of U.S. television rights could bring in more than \$750 million.

Nebiolo said he would lead a top-level IAAF delegation that would explain to International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch the reasons for the decision.

He declined to go into detail at the news conference.

Last month Nebiolo said the issue had virtually split the federation, the world's largest sporting body with 173 member countries.

The timetable for the Olympic track and field events is arranged by the host organising committee and the IAAF, but it has to be approved by the IOC, Nebiolo said.

"I don't believe the IOC will try to change the decision," he added.

The South Koreans might still be able to stage a few of the less attractive events like the women's

marathon and the 20-km walk in the morning, according to IAAF council sources.

But the federation would not shift from the principle that track and field finals should be held in the afternoon, they added.

A spokesman for the disappointed South Korean delegation said after the meeting that increased revenue from television was among a number of grounds it submitted for wanting the selected events moved.

Morning events would attract more local spectators and weather conditions in September dictated that the best time for competition was between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m., he said.

The IAAF had to make a decision on Seoul's request before the end of the year because the IOC was expected to decide on television rights in January, council sources said.

Navratilova in top form for Grand Slam

SYDNEY (R) — Martina Navratilova thrashed her lowly-ranked American compatriot Ann Henricksson 6-1, 6-1 Sunday to win the \$150,000 New South Wales Open women's tennis tournament here and notch her 70th successive victory.

The 40-minute romp was an easy warm-up for Navratilova's attempt, starting next week, to take the Australian Open and thus chalk up her seventh "Grand Slam" event in a row.

She is also seeking to win the four events within the same calendar year, having already won this year's French and American Opens and Wimbledon.

"I'm feeling moving a lot better than I have for a long time," Navratilova told a press conference after Sunday's victory.

She plays her first match in the Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday against South Africa's Yvonne Vermaak.

Australia tumbles to the brink of defeat

BRISBANE (R) — West Indies once again applied their successful formula of relentless pace and sent Australia tumbling to the brink of defeat in the second cricket test here Sunday.

Michael Holding captured three wickets and fellow fast bowlers Malcolm Marshall and Courtney Walsh took one each as Australia, 249 behind on first innings, crumbled to 134 for five in their second by the close of the third day.

Clive Lloyd's touring team are poised to complete victory Monday with a day to spare and take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series after winning by an innings and 112 runs, also with a day in hand, in the first test in Perth.

The depth and quality of West Indies' fast bowling was underlined by the fact that the giant Joel Garner, their most successful paceman with four for 67 in Australia's first innings of 175, did not take a wicket Sunday.

Holding fired out Graeme Wood, Allan Border and captain Kim Hughes despite nursing a hamstring injury sustained on the first day, while Marshall and Walsh triggered the slump after an opening stand of 88 by Kepler Wessels and John Dyson.

The resistance by Dyson and Wessels, top scorers with 61, provided a rare bright moment for Australia, whose only other success came when they swept aside West Indies' last four wickets for 28 to dismiss them for 424 Sunday morning.

Fast bowler Geoff Lawson took three of the wickets and his last which accounted for Walsh and ended the innings was his 100th in his 25th test.

Lloyd, who resumed on 109,

added only five before Hughes caught him off the fast medium bowling of Terry Alderman, while Lawson's tail-end victims included Marshall for 57 and gave him five for 116.

Australia started defiantly as Wessels struck out boldly and survived for 148 minutes before falling to a sharp catch by Larry Gomes off Walsh only moments after Dyson was caught behind by Jeff Dujon off Marshall.

Wood became the first of Holding's victims when he was superbly caught at first slip by Richie Richardson, while Hughes was lbw to a delivery from the Jamaican paceman that kept low.

Border and David Boon offered a measure of resistance in a fifth wicket stand of 25 interrupted for 40 minutes by rain.

After the resumption with 28 minutes left in the final session, Holding dispatched Border for 24, at which point five wickets had tumbled while only 43 runs were scored.

World Cup tickets on sale from February

MEXICO CITY (R) — Tickets for the 1986 Soccer World Cup finals in Mexico will go on sale from February 1 for between 20 and 30 U.S. dollars each match, the tournament's organising committee said.

Fans will have to buy tickets in series. The price of a full 13-match series at Mexico City's Aztec stadium would be \$390, a committee spokesman said.

Half the tickets will be offered abroad and the other half here.

Sheffield Wednesday beats Arsenal

LONDON (R) — Sheffield Wednesday hauled themselves back into the top six of the English first division with a deep-deserved 2-1 victory over championship challengers Arsenal at Hillsborough Sunday afternoon.

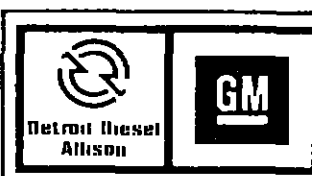
Arsenal were outgunned and overpowered by Wednesday's vibrant and direct attacking play and were lucky not to suffer a heavier defeat.

Former Arsenal striker Lee Chapman put Wednesday ahead with a flying header from a deep cross by Gavin Oliver after 15 minutes.

Arsenal were lucky to equalise after 71 minutes when Tony Woodcock took advantage of a bad defensive slip by Peter Shirliff to score from close range.

But Wednesday went in front again two minutes later when central defender Mark Smith headed wide of Pat Jennings from Andy Blair's free kick.

Nottingham Forest also pulled themselves back into a challenging position with a 2-1 home victory over struggling Leicester City, striker Peter Davenport scoring both goals. Ian Banks scored for Leicester.



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Lendl enjoys luck of the draw

MELBOURNE (R) — Ivan Lendl, bidding for a second Grand Slam title, received a first round bye when the draw for the Australian Open Tennis Championships was made Sunday.

Lendl, who won the French Open at Roland Garros in June, was seeded first in the men's singles which begins Monday following the withdrawal of injured John McEnroe, whom he beat in five sets in the Paris final.

In the second round, the Czechoslovak will meet American Bill Scanlon or Australian John Fitzgerald, neither of whom should cause him any real problems even on grass.

Defending champion Mats Wilander, who beat Lendl in straight

sets in last year's final — a feat he repeated in Canberra Saturday — was also given a first round bye and will open his campaign against big-serving American Chip Hooper or David Mustard of New Zealand.

While Wilander, the number two seed, appears to have the tougher draw, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert Lloyd look to have few problems in the women's singles.

Navratilova, chasing a remarkable seventh successive Grand Slam title, opens against South African Yvonne Vermaak while Lloyd, the number two seed, meets compatriot Kim Shaefer.

Although Lloyd may have to face 13th-seeded Briton Jo Durie

in the last 16, the road to the holds no apparent dangers. Navratilova, however, may have overcome doubles partner Pam Shriver in the semifinal, and the tall American is always a dangerous opponent on grass.

If either Lendl or Wilander step up, local favourite Pat Cash could be the man to watch, especially since Jimmy Connors has decided to stay away.

The fifth-seeded Australian, semifinalist in the U.S. Open and Wimbledon Championships earlier this year, is in the same half of the draw as Wilander and will meet the winner of the all-American first round clash between Andy Andrews and Ken Flach.

Verona tops Italian soccer league

ROME (R) — Verona looked like future Italian champions Sunday when they won 2-1 at second-placed Torino to open up a three-point lead at the top of the first division.

West German Hans-Peter Briegel put Verona ahead after 20 minutes with a powerful shot from the edge of the penalty box.

Austrian international Walter Schachner, the architect of Torino's victory over Juventus last week, nodded the ball down for Giuseppe Dosena to equalise four minutes later.

But after an hour of thrilling soccer Luciano Marangon chased a loose ball in the area, after team-mate Briegel failed to connect, and pushed the ball home to make it 2-1 for Verona.

Michel Platini followed his goal for France in their 1-0 World Cup qualifying victory over Bulgaria by hitting two first half goals for Juventus in their 3-0 away win, over Udinese.

England international Trevor Francis scored a second-half penalty to give Sampdoria a 1-0 win at AC Milan, and the home side are learning to their cost how much they depended for goals on English striker Mark Hateley, currently sidelined with injury.

Milan's first home defeat means Sampdoria move up to third position with the same points as second-placed Torino.

Diego Maradona showed his gratitude at not being suspended after an incident last weekend with a bustling first-half display for Napoli against bottom-placed Cremonese.

His Argentine team-mate Daniel Berti scored the decisive 27th minute goal in Napoli's 1-0 win which raised them to 11th position in the 16-team first division, and out of the relegation zone for the first time in weeks.

Florentina looked well on the way to banishing their internal problems when Paolo Monelli vol-

leyed Gabriele Oriali's header past Inter Milan goalkeeper Recchi after 30 minutes.

But Giampiero Marini took advantage of a second-half mistake to equalise for Inter, leaving uncertainty over the future of Fiorentina manager Giancarlo de Sisti, who had been expected to resign if the home team had lost.

Newly-promoted Atalanta increase their 1-0 interval lead over Avellino to 3-0 after 55 minutes, with two goals by Vella and the third from Sweden's Glen Peter Stromberg.

But despite the absence of Peruvian Barbadillo, one of several foreign players still out of action, Avellino grabbed a share of the points with goals from Faccini and two by Colomba.

Rome side Lazio won a five-goal thriller with Como thanks to goals by Vianello, Denmark's Michel Laudrup and Bruno Giordano.

Swiss look irresistible

SANSICARIO, Italy (R) — Erika Hess and Michela Figini will lead the formidable Swiss title charge in the women's alpine skiing season, and rivals from other countries will find it hard to resist them.

The Swiss were outstanding last season but they are aiming for even greater supremacy this winter. While most teams have just one or two potential winners, four or five Swiss aces will chase victory in all three disciplines — slalom, giant slalom and downhill.

Hess clinched her second overall World Cup last season after a tough battle against Hanni Wenzel of Liechtenstein, who has since retired.

Figini, Olympic downhill gold medalist, Maria Walliser, winner of the downhill World Cup, Brigitte Oerli and Ariane Ehrat, who often finished in the top three, add to the unmatched wealth of Swiss talent.

But U.S. racers Tamara McKinney, disappointing last winter after winning the overall World Cup in 1983, Olympic giant slalom gold medalist Debbie Armstrong and downhiller Holly-Beth Flanders will be determined to prove the Swiss are not invincible.

Others who cannot be discounted are evergreen Irene Epple and her promising West German team-mate Marina Kiehl, cheery Canadian Laurie Graham and Paoletta Magoni, who achieved the biggest surprise of the Sarajevo Olympics when she won the slalom gold medal.

Experienced French racer Perrine Pelen and Austrians Roswitha Steiner and Anni Kronbichler look the only other serious challengers.

Apart from Wenzel, the women's circuit has lost Canada's Gerry Soerensen, world downhill champion in 1982, Fabienne Serfat of France, 1978 world slalom

champion Lea Soelcher of Austria and American Christin Cooper, giant slalom silver medalist at the Sarajevo Olympics.

Figini, the youngest women's Olympic champion in alpine skiing history, could continue the succession of great past champions, such as Marielle Goetschel of France, Canadian Nancy Greene, Austrian Annemarie Moser-Proell, Swiss Marie-Therese Nadig, West German Rosi Mittermaier and Wenzel.

Figini, now 18, won her Olympic title with the same mixture of aggression and confidence as American Bill Johnson. In many ways she resembles Moser, unmatched winner of six overall World Cups.

Like Moser, Figini feels no pressure at the start of a race and can produce her best at speed on ice.

Figini's big event is the downhill but she is more than competent in the technical slalom events and has already won a World Cup combined event.

Last winter she scored 166 points, 81 fewer than Hess, in her first complete World Cup season. She will have to score in all three events and be more consistent than last season to beat her compatriot.

"When I'm on my skis, I like to try to go to the limit. But this all-or-nothing attitude isn't advisable if you want to do well in the World Cup," she said.

"I know people are expecting a lot from me this winter, and I'm a little concerned by it. I prefer not to think too much about points or results."

While the Swiss blossom, Austria — their traditional rivals since the decline of the French — are under pressure from their trainers, who want to celebrate wins again.

No Austrian woman has won a major trophy since Moser's 1980 Olympic downhill triumph in Lake Placid.

Austrian women's team chief Kurt Hoch had to resign at the end of last winter because results were poor despite heavy financial investment.

Hoch, now training the Norwegian team, was replaced by the former downhill coach of the U.S. squad, Andreas Rauch, who will be hoping to challenge the Swiss soon.

France were disappointing last season, with Pelen their only skier in the overall top 10. Team-mates Carole Merle, Helene Barbra, Christelle Guignard and Catherine Quittet have yet to confirm their promise.

Pelen's skiing future is uncertain. She may go to business school next spring. Next season could also be the last for two other veterans — Epple and American Cindy Nelson, who have raced in the World Cup for over 10 years.

Willy Carson on Bedtime came up fast on the rails in the final straight but could not close the gap and was second by 1/16 lengths in the 2,400 metre race.

Bedtime just held off a late challenge from Symboli Rudolf, a three-year-old Japanese colt which came third by a head, Majesty's Prince of the United States was fourth.

Jockey Katsuchi Nishiura took Katsuragi Ace straight into the lead from the start and moved across to the rail from his number 10 barrier position before the first bend.

Katsuragi Ace wins Japan Cup

TOKYO (R) — Outsider Katsuragi Ace, a four-year-old Japanese colt, led from start to finish to win the fourth Japan Cup against an international field of highly rated thoroughbreds and a bevy of top jockeys.

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The project is divided into urban and rural contracts:

IRBID URBAN CONTRACT NO. 25110/01

Design, manufacture, shipment and erection of a 33/KV substation comprising 2x20MVA transformers, 11KV switchgear and ancillary equipment, together with the necessary building works, approximately 2km of 33KV cable and 20km of 11KV cable ring mains and 16x11.4KV package substation units rated at 630KVA.

The contract will require complete supply and erection of all the above equipment on a turnkey basis.

Bids to be submitted at IDECO offices at 12:00 noon on Tuesday 29th Jan., 1985.

Tender Document Price: Jordanian Dinars 75 or £150 Sterling in U.K.
Tender documents are available by application in writing to Irbid District Electricity Company Ltd., P.O. Box 46, Irbid, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, accompanied by a cheque for the appropriate JD amount, OR from Preece Cardew & Rider Ltd., Preece House, 91-103 Davigdor Road, Brighton BN3 1RE, Sussex GB., Consulting engineers to Irbid District Electricity Company Ltd., on payment of the sterling amounts, plus cost of carriage. These sums are not refundable. The application must include the appropriate contract number and project title. For U.K. applications a separate advice should also be sent to PCR Limited in Brighton marked for the attention of the Project Manager ref. 25110/RMJ.

Bids to be submitted at IDECO offices at 12:00 noon on Tuesday 26th Feb., 1985.

Tender Document Price: Jordanian Dinars 100 or £200 Sterling in U.K.
IRBID RURAL CONTRACT NO. 25110/02
Materials are required CIF Aqaba for 25 rural villages comprising 25 HV/LV village substations and 5 water pump stations, 75km of 33KV overhead line and 175km of 0.4KV line and 1300 house connections, namely:

Pole mounted 33/0.4KV transformers, feeder pillars, high voltage fuses, steelwork, insulators, cables rated at 1000V, kWh meters, MCBs etc. Counterweights for overhead lines.

Tender documents will consist of three volumes, two of which are to be submitted to IDECO office in Irbid by the date and time to be stated in the covering letter according to tender documents.

Fixed price contracts are required and tenders must be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the documents, valid for four months.



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Tel: 22188
MERMAID
(Colour) (Arabic)
Performances 12-3-5:30-8

Telephone price war heats up

LONDON — From early next year, millions of American telephone subscribers will be given the opportunity to save money on overseas calls by thinking twice before they lift their receivers and dial.

MCI Communications and GTE-Sprint, two smaller telephone carriers which compete with American Telephone and Telegraph (ATT) in the U.S. long-distance market, recently announced plans to carry the battle into the international arena, where ATT has long had a monopoly.

They expect to undercut by as much as 40 per cent ATT's current charges to Britain and several other countries. ATT has already retaliated with proposals to slash its own tariffs by up to 29 per cent, signalling the outbreak of a price war in the \$1.5 billion-a-year trans-Atlantic telephone market.

MCI also plans soon to launch a low-cost overseas electronic mail service. This will enable documents to be sent by telephone line to central distribution points abroad and is expected to compete with international telex, courier and postal services.

Initially, at least, the new telephone services will link the U.S. to only a handful of countries, and the benefits of price competition will be confined to American customers. British Telecom (B.T.) will route outgoing calls to any U.S. carriers with which it has agreements, on a random basis.

The longer-term impact of these moves — which stem from the same radical U.S. deregulation which has recently caused ATT to expand in overseas equipment markets — is expected to be very far-reaching.

They are the latest in a series of cracks to appear in the previously monolithic structure of the international telecommunications industry, as it starts to develop from a sedate utility into a hard-fought commercial business.

Competition is also brewing in the provision of international communications circuits, hitherto tightly regulated by government agreements.

Cable and Wireless of Britain and Tel-Optik of the U.S. plan a trans-Atlantic optical fibre submarine cable system, on which they will lease capacity to all-comers from 1989.

Several groups are also seeking to challenge the effective monopoly of Intelsat, the international government agency, over trans-Atlantic satellite communications.

These developments are set against a background of bewildering rapid technological change, which is sharply reducing the costs of many telecommunications services while erasing the previous barriers between computing and communications.

The U.S. and Britain have already opted to meet these new pressures head-on by abolishing or loosening many of the traditional constraints to competition in their telecommunications markets.

Japan, too, is starting to chip away at the monopoly of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, its domestic carrier.

Elsewhere, however, the picture is much more confused. Continental European countries, whose telecommunications markets are mostly still dominated by state monopolies (PTTs), are torn in several directions. Though many recognise that pressures for change are mounting fast, debate over the form it should take and how far it should go is still unresolved.

Expansion by ATT's new trans-Atlantic competitors seems set to add impetus to the debate. "It will definitely accelerate the pace at which the European PTTs deregulate," forecasts Mr. Dennis Conroy, director of telecommunications consulting services at Coopers and Lybrand, the large firm of accountants and management consultants.

So far, however, Western European countries seem split on how to respond. Britain, Belgium, Greece and Spain have agreed how to link up with MCI, France and West Germany, however, still appear determined to resist what they regard as a disruptive American challenge to their national monopolies.

British Telecom's motives are unashamedly opportunistic. It sees link-ups with U.S. carriers as a chance both to steal a march on Mercury, its embryonic U.K. rival, and to grab international traffic from other European telecommunications authorities.

International communications is by far B.T.'s most profitable activity, producing profits of £320 million (£381.6 million) on £1.2 billion turnover last year. Revenue is rising by 14 per cent annually — much faster than for domestic traffic — and by as much as 20 per cent on the trans-Atlantic routes, which account for more than a quarter of B.T.'s international business.

By keeping its international tariffs relatively low, B.T. has persuaded about one-third of the U.S. multinational companies operating in Europe to "hub" their communications in Britain.

By routing their trans-Atlantic traffic via London, companies can avoid paying the much higher prices which many other European countries charge for calls made directly to the U.S.

B.T. reckons that its advantages as a network "hub" will grow as the volume of computer data carried on telephone circuits increases. It points out that advanced and flexible communications are increasingly vital to competitive survival in many industries, particularly fast-growing service sectors such as finance and banking.

"Hence, it argues, easy access to such facilities will be an important factor influencing investment decisions by these industries.

If it is right, then other European economies stand to lose by clinging to rigid monopoly telecommunications policies. However, that is not how many of Britain's neighbours see it.

Some PTT officials argue that by greeting competing U.S. carriers with open arms, B.T. is opening the door to powerful rivals which will eventually overwhelm it.

Several European PTTs have considered responding to competition among U.S. international carriers by holding an auction between them and concluding an agreement with the one which offers the best terms.

However, Mr. Conroy of Coopers and Lybrand believes crude attempts to exclude other carriers could be self-defeating because they would encourage customers to bypass national communications networks altogether. "Anybody can drop in a small earth station anywhere these days and start beaming messages straight up to satellites," he says.

That remains heresy to most European PTTs. Nonetheless, many European governments recognise that pressures for some kind of deregulation are likely to become irresistible in future years and are groping their way towards solutions.

Talks are under way in the European Economic Community (EEC) on harmonising technical standards, and the idea of encouraging reciprocal purchases of telecommunications equipment between the EEC has been cautiously approved.

In West Germany, which has Europe's biggest telecommunications market — but also the most restrictive policies — the government plans soon to appoint a committee to study liberalisation proposals.

Formidable obstacles to progress remain. Nationalism is strong and some countries, notably France, see their PTTs as powerful instruments to promote their high-technology industries. Profits from many national telecommunications monopolies also subsidise loss-making postal services and provide budget revenue.

However, U.S. deregulation has given a massive boost to the forces which are turning telecommunications into a competitive international market. Ultimately, the choice facing many European policy-makers may be either to plunge into the competitive tide or to risk being swept aside by it — Financial Times news feature.

Yamani warns of oil panic

LONDON (R) — The West could face oil shortages next month with demand for OPEC oil outstripping supply, Saudi Arabia's oil minister said in an interview published Sunday. "There could be a real panic on the markets. The situation is very alarming and very risky," Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani told the Sunday Times newspaper.

Sheikh Yamani, interviewed in Riyadh, said he believed demand for oil from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) next month could top 20 million barrels a day, firming prices. He blamed the current price slide on American companies saying they were reducing stocks to dangerously low levels to improve balance sheets before the end of the year. The Sunday Times said Sheikh Yamani conceded that Iran may be undermining official OPEC prices by giving discounts but he said that otherwise restraint within the grouping was "working 95 per cent perfectly".

Alia finalises '85 budget

AMMAN — The finance department of Alia — The Royal Jordanian Airlines has finalised the first draft of the 1985 budget. Mr. Fahed Al Fanek, vice-president for finance, presented the budget to a meeting headed by the president and attended by all vice presidents.

Alia's budget for 1985 was based on a break-even assumption with both revenues and expenditures reaching JD 147 million.

The budget in its final shape will be presented to the board of directors in their forthcoming meeting scheduled for Dec. 5, and will be submitted to the government immediately after that.

According to the 1985 budget, Alia's staff share will be in the order of JD 25 million of which JD 37.5 million will be direct salaries and JD 7.5 million will be fringe benefits.

According to the balance sheet of Alia as of June 30, 1984, total assets invested in Alia reached JD 240.9 million of which JD 177 million represent net fixed assets. Investments stood at JD 16.3 million and current assets totalled JD 47.6 million — Alia News.

EC ministers hold critical talks today

BRUSSELS (R) — Common Market foreign ministers meet here Monday amid fears that failure to agree key terms for Spanish and Portuguese entry may undermine next week's European Community summit (EC) in Dublin.

Diplomats said ministers were due to discuss last-minute compromise proposals from Ireland, which currently holds the community presidency.

The final round of negotiations with the Iberian states is due to start here on Tuesday but diplomats said Spanish and Portuguese ministers may not come if the community fails to agree its own negotiating position.

Last week, ministers had been unable to narrow their differences over how to treat Spanish agriculture, fisheries and wine after the planned accession date, set for Jan. 1, 1986.

Diplomats said the 10-nation bloc was deeply committed to the entry of the two states but could face a serious crisis at the summit if ministers failed to translate political commitment into agreement over details.

The agenda for Monday's talks also includes proposals for a 6.6 billion European Currency Unit (ECU) (\$5 billion) programme to develop the group's poorer Mediterranean regions and to compensate them for the effects of Spanish entry.

Ministers are due to approve controversial cost control procedures that have set community governments in conflict with the European Parliament and will decide whether the bloc should sign the new international Law of the Sea convention.

Reagan may decide on deep spending cuts this week to curb budget deficit

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan is likely this week to make the first major decisions on deep spending cuts to curb the huge U.S. budget deficit but remains adamantly opposed to any increase in taxes, administration sources said Sunday.

He will review tentative proposals by top economic officials aimed at cutting the deficit from \$210 billion in the current fiscal year to a rough working target of \$165 to \$170 billion in the fiscal year starting next October.

The goal is to curb the deficit to about two per cent of gross national product, or around \$100 billion, by 1989.

With defence spending forecast in a mid-year budget review to swallow \$294.6 billion in the present fiscal year, the sources said the growth in defence expenditure may be curtailed as well as other domestic spending programmes.

The sources acknowledged that the Pentagon was expected to press for the full increase predicted in that review. But the sheer size of the deficit may help the case of those who say there should be some curb in defence spending growth.

Only tax increases and cuts in the social security system are being ruled out, the sources said. The sources said Mr. Reagan will be asked to decide on include curbs on farm spending, veterans' health benefits and civil service pensions.

During the presidential election campaign, Mr. Reagan's defeated opponent Mr. Walter Mondale said tax increases were needed to

tackle the deficit and said Mr. Reagan was secretly planning tax rises.

But one administration source insisted: "Not only will (Reagan) not propose a tax increase, but he will not propose a budget that would force him to acquiesce in one. The president wants to knock down the idea that he might be compromising and accept a tax increase."

The U.S. Treasury is expected to complete a tax reform plan this week, aimed at closing tax loopholes and lowering tax rates, although it is likely to be overshadowed for the time being by planning for the 1985-86 budget.

Many in Washington believe, however, that a tax increase is inevitable and there is considerable scepticism that the president can present a budget early next year containing only deep spending cuts without provoking substantial

opposition in Congress.

Despite official forecasts of an annual four per cent economic growth over the next several years, a growing number of private economists are predicting a sharp slowdown early next year, if not a downright recession.

A collapse in economic growth, to 1.9 per cent in the third quarter from 7.1 per cent in the second three months, has fuelled the spiralling deficit.

It was originally estimated at around \$170 billion for the current fiscal year but officials have conceded privately it could be even more than the \$210 billion shortfall that is now estimated.

Even though interest rates have declined in recent months analysts inside and outside government fear the new deficit figures may drive rates up again, raising the bill on government debt far above the current \$130 billion.

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LONDON (R) — The West could face oil shortages next month with demand for OPEC oil outstripping supply, Saudi Arabia's oil minister said in an interview published Sunday. "There could be a real panic on the markets. The situation is very alarming and very risky," Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani told the Sunday Times newspaper.

Sheikh Yamani, interviewed in Riyadh, said he believed demand for oil from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) next month could top 20 million barrels a day, firming prices. He blamed the current price slide on American companies saying they were reducing stocks to dangerously low levels to improve balance sheets before the end of the year. The Sunday Times said Sheikh Yamani conceded that Iran may be undermining official OPEC prices by giving discounts but he said that otherwise restraint within the grouping was "working 95 per cent perfectly".

Alia finalises '85 budget

AMMAN — The finance department of Alia — The Royal Jordanian Airlines has finalised the first draft of the 1985 budget. Mr. Fahed Al Fanek, vice-president for finance, presented the budget to a meeting headed by the president and attended by all vice presidents.

Alia's budget for 1985 was based on a break-even assumption with both revenues and expenditures reaching JD 147 million.

The budget in its final shape will be presented to the board of directors in their forthcoming meeting scheduled for Dec. 5, and will be submitted to the government immediately after that.

According to the 1985 budget, Alia's staff share will be in the order of JD 25 million of which JD 37.5 million will be direct salaries and JD 7.5 million will be fringe benefits.

According to the balance sheet of Alia as of June 30, 1984, total assets invested in Alia reached JD 240.9 million of which JD 177 million represent net fixed assets. Investments stood at JD 16.3 million and current assets totalled JD 47.6 million — Alia News.

EC ministers hold critical talks today

BRUSSELS (R) — Common Market foreign ministers meet here Monday amid fears that failure to agree key terms for Spanish and Portuguese entry may undermine next week's European Community summit (EC) in Dublin.

Diplomats said ministers were due to discuss last-minute compromise proposals from Ireland, which currently holds the community presidency.

The final round of negotiations with the Iberian states is due to start here on Tuesday but diplomats said Spanish and Portuguese ministers may not come if the community fails to agree its own negotiating position.

Last week, ministers had been unable to narrow their differences over how to treat Spanish agriculture, fisheries and wine after the planned accession date, set for Jan. 1, 1986.

Diplomats said the 10-nation bloc was deeply committed to the entry of the two states but could face a serious crisis at the summit if ministers failed to translate political commitment into agreement over details.

The agenda for Monday's talks also includes proposals for a 6.6 billion European Currency Unit (ECU) (\$5 billion) programme to develop the group's poorer Mediterranean regions and to compensate them for the effects of Spanish entry.

Ministers are due to approve controversial cost control procedures that have set community governments in conflict with the European Parliament and will decide whether the bloc should sign the new international Law of the Sea convention.

Reagan may decide on deep spending cuts this week to curb budget deficit

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan is likely this week to make the first major decisions on deep spending cuts to curb the huge U.S. budget deficit but remains adamantly opposed to any increase in taxes, administration sources said Sunday.

He will review tentative proposals by top economic officials aimed at cutting the deficit from \$210 billion in the current fiscal year to a rough working target of \$165 to \$170 billion in the fiscal year starting next October.

The goal is to curb the deficit to about two per cent of gross national product, or around \$100 billion, by 1989.

With defence spending forecast in a mid-year budget review to swallow \$294.6 billion in the present fiscal year, the sources said the growth in defence expenditure may be curtailed as well as other domestic spending programmes.

The sources acknowledged that the Pentagon was expected to press for the full increase predicted in that review. But the sheer size of the deficit may help the case of those who say there should be some curb in defence spending growth.

Only tax increases and cuts in the social security system are being ruled out, the sources said. The sources said Mr. Reagan will be asked to decide on include curbs on farm spending, veterans' health benefits and civil service pensions.

During the presidential election campaign, Mr. Reagan's defeated opponent Mr. Walter Mondale said tax increases were needed to

tackle the deficit and said Mr. Reagan was secretly planning tax rises.

But one administration source insisted: "Not only will (Reagan) not propose a tax increase, but he will not propose a budget that would force him to acquiesce in one. The president wants to knock down the idea that he might be compromising and accept a tax increase."

The U.S. Treasury is expected to complete a tax reform plan this week, aimed at closing tax loopholes and lowering tax rates, although it is likely to be overshadowed for the time being by planning for the 1985-86 budget.

Many in Washington believe, however, that a tax increase is inevitable and there is considerable scepticism that the president can present a budget early next year containing only deep spending cuts without provoking substantial

opposition in Congress.

Despite official forecasts of an annual four per cent economic growth over the next several years, a growing number of private economists are predicting a sharp slowdown early next year, if not a downright recession.

A collapse in economic growth, to 1.9 per cent in the third quarter from 7.1 per cent in the second three months, has fuelled the spiralling deficit.

It was originally estimated at around \$170 billion for the current fiscal year but officials have conceded privately it could be even more than the \$210 billion shortfall that is now estimated.

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U.S. must face realities in new talks, Soviets say

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Sunday the United States would have to understand the need for Soviet nuclear parity when the two sides sit down again for arms talks.

Pravda's review of last week's events, which included an announcement that the foreign ministers of the two superpowers would meet in Geneva in January to prepare new arms talks, said Moscow expected a concrete U.S. move.

"Talking about negotiations ... is not a bad thing, providing of course this leads to truth and the understanding that concrete deeds are needed to cure the situation and halt the arms race," Pravda said.

The newspaper put the blame for stalemate in arms negotiations on the United States but made no reference to Moscow's prior insistence that new U.S. missiles should be removed from Western Europe before arms talks could resume.

"The nations expect these to be genuinely new talks, in which the American side will at last be ready to come to terms with the realities of the modern world, the principles of parity and identical security," Pravda said.

Official communiques from

both sides have referred to the forthcoming talks as being "new", a term seen by most analysts as a diplomatic device to allow Moscow to sidestep its previous conditions with some saving of face.

Pravda adapted a statement earlier this week by President Konstantin Chernenko presenting the new talks as pursuing the detente espoused by his mentor, the late Leonid Brezhnev.

In a foreword to a book of his speeches published in Vienna last Wednesday, a day before the U.S.-Soviet talks were announced, Mr. Chernenko strongly advocated detente as "the natural state" of relations between countries.

U.S. agreement to the talks, by contrast, was presented as a chance for a fresh start by President Reagan.

Western diplomats, commenting on condition of anonymity, said Pravda's arguments seemed intended to explain to Soviets why Moscow will negotiate with an administration con-

stantly reviled in the press in the past year.

One West European diplomat noted the explanation was largely a formal one since Soviet media had indicated a changed policy toward Washington in the past two months.

"The decisive step I think was the meeting between Mr. Gromyko and Mr. Reagan (in Washington on Sept. 28). From that time on, you had an interview or statement every 10 days or so and it was obvious that something had been set in motion," he said.

A Pravda analyst stressed that both the United States and the Soviet Union have "a special responsibility for preserving peace" and need to agree arms control to ensure greater world stability.

The analyst named areas listed by Mr. Chernenko in an interview last month with the Washington Post as fields in which the Soviets would like to see progress in arms control.

These, he said, were the prevention of the militarisation of space, the freezing of nuclear arms in quantity and quality, and completion of work broken off under former President Jimmy Carter's administration on a nuclear test ban treaty.



GEM AMONG GEMS: Surrounded by diamonds totalling 890 carats is the 890 carat Zale diamond, unveiled last week in York. When cut, the diamond may be the largest polished diamond the world has ever seen, according to Donald Zale, chairman of the board of the Zale Corporation (AP wirephoto)

4 die as Filipino troops, gunmen clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines (AP) — Four people were killed and 18 others were wounded as soldiers exchanged automatic weapons fire Sunday with followers of a suspect in the assassination of Zamboanga Mayor Cesar Climaco, authorities said.

Soldiers stopped and searched vehicles and people walking on the streets of Zamboanga as a colonel negotiated with followers of Rizal Alih for the release of about 20 children the armed group was holding hostage in an apartment building.

Among those confirmed killed were a soldier, a bystander, one of

Alih's men, and a military nurse hit by a bullet as the attempted to a wounded soldier at the height of the two-hour shootout, which began at 12:45 p.m. (0445GMT).

At least six soldiers and 12 civilians were wounded in the crossfire.

More than 500 troops — from the marines, army, and Philippine constabulary — and police backed by three armoured personnel carriers ringed the two-story apartment building as Zamboanga Constabulary Commander Lt. Col. Jesus Guerson negotiated with Alih's men inside

the building.

Officials would not say what the group wanted.

Alih is a brother of Abdurasa Alih, a former Zamboanga police lieutenant who was killed last month in an ambush at a checkpoint manned by militiamen near Mr. Climaco's house in another part of the city, 864 kilometres south east of Manila.

Mr. Climaco, a sharp-tongued man who often denounced military and police abuses, has reportedly expressed fears Alih's armed followers would blame him for the still-unresolved killing of the policeman. He was killed Nov. 14.

4 grenades explode at U.S. mission in Lisbon

LISBON (R) — Four grenades were fired at the United States embassy in Lisbon early Sunday, slightly damaging three cars, an embassy spokesman said.

He said the grenades were apparently fired from a 60mm launcher and exploded in gardens round the building.

Earlier police said one projectile landed inside the embassy compound while the others exploded outside. There were no casualties.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for the attack, apparently carried out by paiders in a car.

A month ago police found a crude double bazooka trained on the new U.S. embassy building in a west Lisbon suburb but the mechanism was faulty and it failed to go off.

This abortive attack was claimed by a shadowy radical left-wing urban guerrilla group calling itself FP-25 — Popular Forces of April 25, date of the 1974 revolution.

It has claimed responsibility for a series of killings, bombings and bank robberies over the past four years.

Police are holding 51 people, including revolutionary hero Lt. Col. Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho, on charges of being involved in FP-25.

In another development, a hitherto unknown organisation calling itself the autonomous Revolutionary Workers' Commando claimed responsibility for the murder on Friday of the personnel manager of a big cement company at Setubal, south of Lisbon.

A man claiming to be spokesman for the group told Portuguese news media that Antonio Sousa Pereira, of the Seco Cement Company, had been stabbed because of the way he treated workers.

Nearly 100 people have died since anti-government protests began in earnest 18 months ago to press for a quick return to democracy.

Nearly one-third of the total came during August last year when thousands of troops were ordered to enforce a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

During Saturday's operations, soldiers in trucks, jeeps and armoured cars cruised around at least eight districts in different parts of the city while foot patrols mingled with shoppers and children playing in the streets.

There were no mass roundups like those in two previous operations under the state of siege. Witnesses said about 70 people were detained but there were no official figures.

Under strict censorship now in force local media cannot report such operations unless there is an official version of events from the government.

Father Pierre Dubois, parish priest of La Victoria, where thousands of men were rounded up in a sweep just over a week ago, said the soldiers behaved differently.

"I think it was a mass psychological intimidation," he said. Enrique Gonzalez, a priest in the Colon Oriente district where trucks appeared in the morning said the soldiers had threatened residents.

"They said that if anything happened on Tuesday, people had better watch out, they were going to be tough," he said.

Colombo thwarts new rebel raid plans

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan security forces say they have thwarted a major raid by Tamil separatist guerrillas and captured large quantities of arms and ammunition.

Police said troops Saturday ambushed six boats carrying about 60 Tamil guerrillas believed to have been heading for an attack on the Kalavachikudy Police Station in eastern province.

The ambush came only five days after an assault by about 250 guerrillas on the Chavakachcheri Police Station in the northern district of Jaffna in which 24 policemen and three civilians were killed.

An air force helicopter fired at the six boats, killing at least four rebels, police said. Others jumped overboard and disappeared into jungle after swimming ashore.

Security forces combing the jungle arrested one wounded guerrilla, police said.

In another incident Saturday, security forces arrested about 125 suspected guerrillas after finding a large weapons cache in a house in Batticaloa, eastern province.

The state-run Sunday Observer, quoting security forces, said Sunday a rebel leader wounded in the assault on the Chavakachcheri Police Station had died in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Sri Lankan authorities have said they believe the guerrillas trained in Tamil Nadu and returned there by boat after the raid.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, speaking in parliament on Friday, appealed to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to discontinue training camps for the guerrillas.

An Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday: "We have repeatedly made it clear there are no training camps for Tamil militants in Tamil Nadu."

V.R. Nedunchezian, Tamil Nadu's finance minister and acting state leader, told Reuters in Madras: "There never were any such training camps here in the first place, so the question of dismantling them does not arise."

"We have given some protection to Sri Lankan Tamils who have come here as refugees and will give them moral and emotional support," he said.

Sri Lankan authorities said a 17-hour curfew would be reimposed from 2 p.m. Sunday in the Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts of northern province and Mullaitivu in eastern province.

They said a 12-hour night curfew would be reimposed at Mannar and Vavuniya, two other northern districts.

The guerrillas are fighting for a separate Tamil state in the north and east, saying their community is discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese.

Chinese party weeds out opposition

PEKING (R) — China's Communist Party has announced the second phase of its campaign to weed out lingering ultra-leftist sympathisers and says all its 40 million members will face a re-selection procedure.

The objective is to ensure the party is fully behind the policies of top leader Deng Xiaoping, who has abandoned many of the central themes of Maoism, including egalitarianism and rural communes.

The leadership which replaced the Late Chairman Mao Tseung and the disgraced extremist "gang of four" is now set firmly on a course of tempering state socialism with worker incentives and allowing market forces a greater role in the economy.

A party circular issued by the Central Committee at the weekend says organisations which began the process of "party rectification" a year ago should now move on to the second phase.

Those involved in the first stage included central and local party organisations and the armed forces. The second state will widen the scope to take in grass roots members.

Over the next two years, all 40 million party members will have to face a re-selection procedure and register again with the party," the official New China News Agency reported.

The idea is to weed out corrupt members and those who still cling to the ideas of the extreme-leftist Cultural Revolution period of 1966-76.

Class enemies were viciously persecuted and intellectuals humiliated and beaten by their own students.

"Party consolidation is aimed at removing from the party people regarded as being harmful elements because they committed crimes or grave errors during the Cultural Revolution, or because they have become corrupt," the news agency said.

The circular published by the official Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, said the rectification campaign was designed to improve the political quality of party members, maintain party discipline and "purify party organisations."

Lenin's nephew dies at 67

MOSCOW (R) — Viktor Ulyanov, the nephew of Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet state, has died in Moscow at the age of 67, a death notice in the Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda announced Sunday. Viktor Uly-

anov, son of Lenin's younger brother Dmitry, was an engineer by profession who spent much of his spare time working in the museum dedicated to his uncle. Pravda said his life had "been illuminated by his personal contact" with Lenin.

Animals react differently in space

MOSCOW (R) — Animals react in different ways to conditions in space but zero gravity does not appear to affect their embryonic development, a Soviet scientist told an international symposium on space and biology.

Academician Oleg Gzekenko told eastern and western experts that animals in their embryonic stage before take-off were born in normal time when they landed and later produced healthy offspring.

The animals were blasted into orbit on board a Soviet biological satellite last December, he said, according to a TASS news agency report of the symposium last week.

The Soviet scientists also observed animals' physiological response to weightlessness during an experiment in which two Macao monkeys, fish, and other small animals were lifted into space.

Scientists develop vaccine against deadly spider

SYDNEY (R) — Australian scientists have developed a vaccine against the venom of the deadly funnel-web spider, one of the world's most poisonous creatures.

The new vaccine builds up immunity against the toxin over a course of injections, Dr. Merlin Howden, a member of a research team from two Sydney universities, has said.

The spider is only three to five centimetres long, but its venom can kill a child in 15 minutes. The type of funnel-web deadly to humans is found only in and around Sydney, Australia's biggest city. The spider is known to have killed 14 people over the last two decades or so, but the real number of fatalities is significantly higher because records are not complete, Dr. Howden told Reuters.

A synthetic vaccine would be available within two years, he said. The team last year isolated the sole lethal neurotoxin, called Robustoxin, from the venom of the male funnel-web.

Western diplomats estimate Hanoi maintains 160,000 to 180,000 troops in Kampuchea supporting the Heng Samrin government it installed in Phnom Penh.

He said the KPNLF had 15,000 men under arms and hoped to arm an additional 3,000 soon with fresh supplies. He did not say where the supplies would come from.

"We don't have a great power behind us," he said, referring to Chinese arms supplies to the Khmer Rouge.

"We are one of three Khmer guerrilla movements, not always on the best terms with one another. And we are fighting the masters of guerrilla warfare, the Vietnamese," Mr. Hing Kunthou added.

Since April Ampil has been extensively fortified from the front lines near the lake back into the headquarters area.

According to KPNLF estimates during the 10-day April siege 21

More air support heading for Nicaragua

WASHINGTON (AP) — Crates of Czechoslovakian L39 jet trainers at docks in a Bulgaria seaport are believed to be destined for Nicaragua, the Washington Post reported in Sunday editions.

The newspaper-quoted unidentified U.S. officials as saying that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is the source of the L39s, a two-seat trainer plane that can be converted to a light bomber.

A Defense Department press duty officer, Navy Lt. Thomas Yeager, had no comment Saturday night on the newspaper report, which quoted unidentified intelligence officials as refusing to discuss why they believe the planes are headed for Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, the U.S. television network NBC reported Saturday night that one of Nicaragua's neighbours, Honduras, plans to ask the U.S. for a dramatic increase in military assistance, possibly to counter increased Soviet aid to Nicaragua.

State Department press duty officer Anita Stockman said Saturday night that a delegation from Honduras will meet with U.S. administration officials shortly.

NBC quoted U.S. intelligence sources as saying four more Soviet helicopter gunships are being sent to Nicaragua and that the government of the Central American nation soon may have a full squadron of 12 Soviet combat helicopter.

Airship is back in business

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A Kenyan peasant woman and her baby girl died after they were attacked by a swarm of bees at a riverbank near the western town of Kisumu, the semi-official Kenya News Agency reported Saturday.

The baby died on the spot and the mother, Christina Okumu, died in a hospital later. The woman was drawing water from a stream when the swarm attacked, the agency said.

Animals react differently in space

LONDON (R) — The airship, once a rival to the aeroplane, is back in business in Britain after a 50-year absence. Cigar-shaped lighter-than-air, motor-driven dirigibles went out of fashion in most parts of the world after some spectacular 1930s crashes. But research and improvement went ahead and in Britain last week the airship — kept aloft by inert helium gas instead of highly combustible hydrogen — made an official return to commercial aviation.

The Civil Aviation Authority issued an airworthiness certificate to an eight-seater airship to carry fare-paying passengers. It is available for hire at £7,000 (\$8,400) a day.

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Korean armistice commission meets to discuss border shooting

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A full-scale meeting of the Korean Military Armistice Commission is to be held Monday to deal with a firefight at the truce village of Panmunjom, an issue the United Nations command has called "most serious."

A command spokesman said Sunday that North Korea had agreed to a proposal that the meeting be held Monday at the same site where the shooting erupted Friday. One South Korean soldier and three North Koreans were killed in the firefight. One American soldier and one North Korean were wounded.

The shooting in the joint security area of the demilitarised zone between the two Koreas erupted when a Soviet national fled across the military demarcation

line in a defection to the South.

The U.N. command termed the bloody shootout a grave incident, and called Saturday for a meeting Monday of the armistice commission at the highest level provided in the armistice agreement that ended the combat in the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korea counter-proposed that the meeting be held Sunday, but the U.N. command turned down that proposal. At mid-afternoon Sunday, the command said North Korea had sent word it would agree to the meeting on Monday.

The United States and North Korea offered widely varying versions of the 40-minute shootout at the demilitarised zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea.

While the North accused the United States of "brutal murder"

in the Friday incident, the U.S. side called the North's account "self-excusing."

A U.N. spokesman reported the zone as "tense but quiet" Saturday.

The American officer who heads the U.N. command at the DMZ called for a full meeting on Monday of the Korean Military Armistice Commission — comprised of military officers from the U.N. Command and from North Korea — to discuss the shooting, the U.N. statement said.

The command said the Russian defector, identified as Vasily Yakovlevich Manuzok, 22 or 23, broke away from a tour group and fled South "voluntarily and of his own volition" with six North Korean soldiers in pursuit, firing their pistols.

Troops drive to block Chilean protests

SANTIAGO (R) — Chile's military government has stepped up security operations in slum areas of the capital to try to deter people from taking part in protests called by opponents of President Augusto Pinochet this week.

Troops and police toured several areas of the city Saturday and some local priests said the security forces had warned residents not to join the protests next Tuesday and Wednesday.

The protests, called by opposition political parties, trade unions and social organisations, are the first major challenge to Gen. Pinochet's crackdown on political unrest which began with the imposition of a state of siege almost three weeks ago.

Nearly 100 people have died since anti-government protests began in earnest 18 months ago to press for a quick return to democracy.

Nearly one-third of the total came during August last year when thousands of troops were ordered to enforce a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

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"I think it was a mass psychological intimidation," he said. Enrique Gonzalez, a priest in the Colon Oriente district where trucks appeared in the morning said the soldiers had threatened residents.

"They said that if anything happened on Tuesday, people had better watch out, they were going to be tough," he said.

Kampuchean rebel general awaits Vietnamese attack

AMPIL, Kampuchea (R) — Gen. Dien Del likes to prune the roses he has planted around his command bunker as he waits for a Vietnamese attack on this Kampuchean guerrilla stronghold.

Gen. Dien Del, acting president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), said a Vietnamese assault on nearby Nong Chan was a feat and he expected Hanoi's 5th Infantry Division to strike the front's headquarters here at any time.

Nong Chan, 30 kilometres to the southwest, has been under siege by elements of the 9th Division since Sunday and its 20,000 civilians put to flight.

Speaking to Reuters in his rose patch, Gen. Dien Del said the 5th Division had been rested in preparation for the attack and strengthened with airlifted supplies.

The general, dressed in a tee-shirt and shorts, traced the expected route of the Vietnamese strike with his pruning shears and said: "We'll stop them."

A guerrilla spokesman said meanwhile in Bangkok that some Vietnamese troops had pulled out of Nong Chan and appeared to be

heading towards Ampil.

"We're expecting something to happen at Ampil," he added.

The spokesman also said that KPNLF President Son Sann had arrived in Bangkok on Friday and gone immediately to Ampil to inspect the camp's defences.

Ampil survived a Vietnamese offensive last April when the attackers ran out of ammunition and rains forced them to withdraw after 10 days.

Gen. Dien Del is worried Hanoi will try harder this time and go all out between now and May to smash the KPNLF, largest of the two non-Communist partners of the Khmer Rouge in the U.N.-recognised coalition government of democratic Kampuchea.

Despite the thousands of artillery shells lobbed at Ampil last April, Gen. Dien Del's roses survived and have been replenished with new Japanese hybrids.

The hundreds of orchids which once hung from hand-made wooden trellises did not fare so well.

Gen. Dien Del has also lavished attention on his command bunker. He has fortified it with tons of cement and put up wire mesh to

keep out the mosquitos but cotton prints, painted Khmer screens and furniture with natural wood finish add a personal touch.

Gen. Dien Del said about 4,000 Vietnamese soldiers were to the east of Ampil, with the closest only three kilometres away at Ampil Lake.

Six Vietnamese regiments were also strung out beyond the trees and scrub of north western Battambang.

Civilian affairs head Hing Kunthou said 16 artillery pieces have fired range-finding rounds into the camp during the past week.

He is also confident Ampil will hold — barring a Vietnamese tank assault or massive reinforcements.

"We're always prepared for the dry season, a lot more this year than previously," Mr. Hing Kunthou said. Thai military sources estimate Ampil has about 4,000 defenders and can call on more from other areas.

Since April Ampil has been extensively fortified from the front lines near the lake back into the headquarters area.

According to KPNLF estimates during the 10-day April siege 21

guerrillas died and 140 were wounded. They said several hundred Vietnamese were killed.</